



I have appreciated your patience during Covid. I was hopeful that transmission rates would stay low. Olmsted is currently in a high transmission county. There is so much unknown about the Delta variant except that it is more contagious than the first. There appears to be more breakthroughs than anticipated. Deaths are down because of vaccinations but all children under age 12 have not been vaccinated. When the transmission rates go down, the council will reevaluate our protocols. We are currently following mask guidelines set by the CDC and MDH for high transmission counties.

If you haven't been vaccinated, I encourage you to get vaccinated. I am looking forward to the day when all will have had a chance to receive the vaccine including those under age 12. Keep praying for leaders everywhere that God would give them wisdom and courage during these times.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 reminds me during anxious times what really matters. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...

-Pastor Steve

**SERMON SERIES** This fall we will be reviewing the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Ephesians is like a catechism, providing foundations for understanding the nature and purpose of the church. As we re-emerge after/during covid we hope to refocus our attention to what really matters as God's people. The following link will help you prepare for the series.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 9-12  | Sunday school begins - return to worship at 8 & 10 |
| 9-19  | Ephesians 1 Remembering whose we are               |
| 9-26  | Ephesians 2 Made right by Grace to do good         |
| 10-3  | Ephesians 3 The Mission                            |
| 10-10 | Ephesians 4 Gifted/Empowered for God's mission     |
| 10-17 | Ephesians 5 Empowering families for mission        |
| 10-24 | Ephesians 6 Wrestling with the powers of evil      |
| 10-31 | Reformation Understanding Martin Luther's Theology |



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# EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - SEPTEMBER

This year we will be Digging Into Foundations of Faith by exploring what the Bible reveals about who God is and how God sees us, how we fit in God's family, and how we live the Christian life. We still need more teachers for this year. Please let Francine Kovash know if you are interested in teaching or helping in the classrooms! (507) 951-2234 or [fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com)

Sunday School teacher orientation will be September 1st at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you signed up to teach, watch for an email with the details.

Rally Sunday for the start of Sunday School will be September 12th at 9:05 am. Please meet in the sanctuary and then the kids will be taken to their classrooms from there. Pick up is at 9:55 in the classrooms. Sunday School will run from September 12th, 2021 through May 15th, 2022 and is for 3 year olds through 6th graders. Registration forms and class schedules will be on the kiosk.

### September Lessons

9/12- Rally Sunday

9/19 - Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

9/26 - God Tells Job About His Creation (Job 38-39; Psalm 8)

3rd graders receive their Bibles on 9/19 during the 8 am and 10 am services.

Thanks! Francine Kovash, Sunday School Coordinator



## CONFIRMATION NEWS

The 2021-2022 Confirmation mentor meeting will be held at 7:00 on Wednesday, 9/1 at the church. Confirmation kicks off with parent and confirmand orientation on 9/8 at 7:00 at the church. Come a little early to register if you haven't already and pay for the mandatory Eagle Bluff retreat happening on Saturday, 9/11. Eagle Bluff fees and health forms will be provided by email before the 9/8 orientation meeting. - Brenda Bendix, Confirmation Coordinator

## 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 Sunday School year is underway. Registration forms can be found on the kiosk or on the website at: <http://www.clcbyron.org/sunday-school/>

## CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

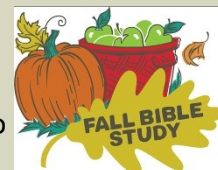
2021-2022 Confirmation registration forms for 1st and 2nd year students are on the kiosk at church and online at: <http://www.clcbyron.org/confirmation/>

## VBS 2021 PICTURES



## SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Nirmala will be continuing her Bible Studies in September with the topic: Forgiveness. This study will run Wednesdays from September 8 through the 29th at 10am at CLC in the fellowship hall. Please contact Pastor Nirmala with any questions. We hope to see you there!





# YOUTH/OUTREACH

## 2022 MISSION TRIP - LAKE TRAVERSE, SD

**JUNE 26 - JULY 1, 2022**

Your group will help facilitate children's programming, serve the residents in local assisted living facilities/nursing homes and help with other work projects in the community. You'll learn about Dakota culture from a community friend, and explore a state park that is spiritually significant to the local tribe.

CLC has reserved 15 spots for this mission trip. To register, please submit a registration form located on the kiosk along with your \$125 deposit by December 1, 2021. Space is limited so priority will be based on when checks are received. With fundraisers, our goal is to keep out of pocket costs to \$250/student. The total cost of mission trips are about \$6,000 with \$3,000 covered by the families. Students are expected to assist with Youth Committee sponsored fundraisers. The mission trip is open to youth that complete 8th through 12th grade by June 2022.



## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be starting up in September with Kim Postier leading the group. The first event is September 1 from 7-8pm. We will be having a bonfire at CLC. All students, grades 9th - 12th, are welcome to attend. Contact Kim at [postier.kim@gmail.com](mailto:postier.kim@gmail.com) with questions. We hope you will join us at Youth Group!



## THANK-YOUS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT CLC

\* Thank you to the John and Barb Meyer family for supplying the beautiful gladiolus flowers in our sanctuary!

\* Thank you to JoAnn Brooks for her time spent keeping the church activity bags stocked and cleaned for the little ones during worship services. She is stepping down from this task. During COVID we will not be offering the activity bags for our littlest members. If someone is interested in managing the kids activity bags, please let JoAnn or the office know.

## FAMILY PROMISE - IHN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are beginning to fill positions for our current volunteer opportunities starting Fall 2021. The families will no longer be housed at area churches but are staying at a house purchased by IHN. The available positions are as follows: **\*Overnight Volunteer \*Evening Engagement \*Life Skills**

To sign- up for one of the above opportunities, click the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4FA4AA22A3F94-volunteer1>

There is also an opportunity for volunteers to "Feed A Family". Meals have been coming far and in-between, so it would be amazing if we could get more volunteers engaged. This position gives the volunteer the choice to either prepare, donate or deliver a meal for the families currently in the program. To sign up, visit <https://www.fprochestermn.org/feed-a-family>.

## SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION

CLC collects food in the blue barrel by the front door for the Salvation Army. Thank you for your donations. If you are interested in dropping off the food when the barrel fills up again, please let the office know.

## SAMARITAN BETHANY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are considering resuming worship in the Chapel here at Samaritan Bethany. I'm seeking volunteers to help with getting residents to and from worship on Sunday mornings at 10am. The process for getting this underway will be different than in the past. Before the pandemic, our supporting churches rotated monthly twice a year. Now, we'll need a more stringent screening process for those who volunteer - a background check and orientation that lasts about a half hour that Ronnie Robertson will oversee. This may mean a smaller pool will rotate according to personal schedules rather than supporting churches rotating monthly. Thank you for your attention and willingness to consider this ministry opportunity.

-God Bless, Pastor Glen (507-251-9557 [gholland@samaritanbethany.com](mailto:gholland@samaritanbethany.com))

# FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH LIFE

## JOY CLUB

Plans are being made to start the JOY group in the fall. Any suggestions are welcomed. Please call Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 with ideas or if you are interested in joining this group.

**DINER'S CLUB** The Diner's group will be meeting Monday, September 20th at the Byron Community Rec Area shelter at 11am. Please join us for a picnic get together to hear more about small groups and if interested in becoming a group member. Bring your own lunch and beverage. The shelter is located between the baseball diamonds and the playground. It does have picnic tables and a roof in case of too much sun or rain. Everyone is welcome! Contact person: Gayle Jaben (641-430-5324)

**CHANCEL CHOIR - GET READY TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** We're planning to sing for services once a month, and practice twice a month. Practices will be in the sanctuary for social distancing purposes. First practice is Sept 8th at 6pm. Contact Julie Carlblom ([jcarblom@kmtel.com](mailto:jcarblom@kmtel.com)) for more information.

## FAITH AT HOME

I encourage all families have intentional faith discussions at home. If you are interested but don't know where to start, one good resource is <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

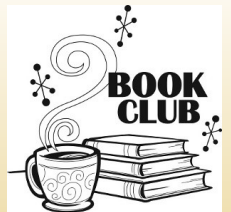
There is a list of favorite Bible verses on the kiosk near the church office that you could use as a resource for reading a Bible verse. You could start with highs and lows and at the end of your time together, after a meal, and you could pray for each other's high and lows. - Pastor Steve

## OXBOW OUTING AUGUST 15



## BOOK CLUB IS BACK IN SEPTEMBER!

We will meet monthly, September 2021 - May 2022 at 7:00pm at Christ Lutheran Church on the first Tuesday of the month. Each month, we need a host who brings a store purchased dessert and/or snacks and leads the discussion. Each person brings their own beverage. Below are the books I have reserved so far. If you are interested in joining this group contact Kristie Nelson.



Tuesday, Sept. 7 "The Story of Arthur Trulov" by Elizabeth Berg

7:00 at CLC

Kristie hosts

Tuesday, Oct. 5 "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Egan

7:00 at CLC

Tuesday, Nov. 2 "The Stranger in the Woods" by Michael Finkel

7:00 at CLC

Tuesday, Dec. 7 "The Geography of Bliss" by Eric Weiner

7:00 at CLC

Let me know if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone again! - Kristie Nelson

# WORSHIP INFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP

## **CHRIST LUTHERAN GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP, WEDDINGS, & FUNERALS 8/10/2021**

1. Masks are required inside the Church building at all times even if you are vaccinated.
2. If you have any symptoms of Covid-19, including but not limited to fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, or if you have recently been exposed to someone with Covid-19, please stay home.
3. Hand sanitizer will still be available in multiple locations within the church. Please use as needed.
4. Social distancing measures will be in place throughout the church. We will still only use every other pew. Fellowship hall seating will be 4 per table for all gatherings. (54-person capacity).
5. Offering will remain at the Sanctuary door for collection. (E-giving is encouraged), Communion will continue with the Wafer & Juice individual packet picked up when entering the Sanctuary.
6. Church social gatherings will resume with social distancing and capacity limits in place. Food and beverages can be brought in from purchased sources to consume. No home baked/cooked items or items made at the church kitchen. Serving wear like glasses, cups, plates, utensils, serving containers must be disposable.

## **CLC COUNCIL MEETING 8/17/2021**

The meeting was called to order by Mark Turany.

Members present: Pastor Steve Rheingans, Mark Turany, Jason Pfeilsticker, Randy Holz, Candee Ostreng, Joe Biewer, Kaia Long, David Schlobohm, and Linda Danielski. Members not present: Ben Johnson, Anna Palmer, Naomi Meek and Lindsey Dickson.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Randy Holz and seconded by Kaia Long.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jason Pfeilsticker and seconded by Candee Ostreng.

Jason Pfeilsticker submitted the treasurer's report. July 2021 ended \$2683.89 in the red. However, income exceeds expenses for the year by \$35,703.84 because of the PPE loan forgiveness.

A discussion was held on the updating of the HVAC system of the church. We do not yet have a date on when that work is to begin.

A discussion was also held on the guidelines for worship, weddings, and funerals. Masks are currently required inside the church building at all times even if you are vaccinated.

A motion was made by Jason Pfeilsticker to adjourn the meeting and seconded by David Schlobohm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be September 21st, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Danielski, council secretary.

## **WORSHIP OPTIONS AT CLC - NEW FALL SCHEDULE STARTING SEPTEMBER 12**

- In-church worship with traditional style at 8am and contemporary style at 10am (communion offered the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month).
- In-car worship on Sunday mornings at 8am and 10am 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/UCAdS22Tn6Epi6yZqzmNKK2g>

## **DONATIONS AND THANK-YOU**

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. Donation options include mailing in a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or dropping off a donation during church services or our office hours from 9 - 1, Monday through Thursday.

## **DONATE TO CLC THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE!**

We are now listed with United Way as a 501C3 which means your employer can direct donations to CLC through United Way. Please contact the office with any questions.

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

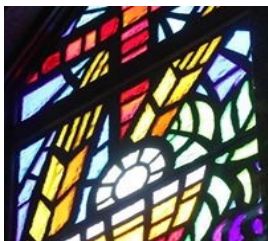
You can direct your Thrivent Choice dollars online or call 800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice", Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice programs Terms and Conditions. If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars. Thrivent is no longer sending out emails indicating you have money to direct.



Christ Lutheran Church  
 201 Frontage Road NW  
 Byron, MN 55920      [www.clcbyron.org](http://www.clcbyron.org)  
 Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Mon - Thurs  
 507-775-6646      [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org)

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

## September 2021



### Worship Schedule

In Person/In Car Worship - Sundays  
 Traditional Service - 8am  
 Contemporary Service - 10am  
 LiveStream Worship  
*Communion is offered the 1st and 3rd  
 Sundays at in person and in car worship*

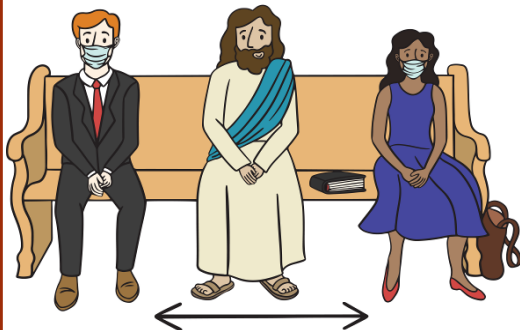


## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CLC CRISIS TEAM

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

## LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS



Please sit 6 ft. apart

## ATTENDANCE

### JULY

Date	In Church	In Car
7/4/2021	76	2 cars
7/11/2021	112	3 cars
7/18/2021	85	0 cars
7/25/2021	152	0 cars

### AUGUST

Date	In Church	In Car
8/1/2021	118	0 cars
8/8/2021	95	1 car
8/15/2021	81	2 cars
8/22/2021	98	3 cars
8/29/2021		

## FALL WORSHIP & OFFICE HOURS

Fall worship times will be as follows:

Traditional Service - 8am  
 Sunday School - 9:05am  
 Contemporary Service - 10am

Fall office hours, starting  
 September 6 will be Monday -  
 Thursday from 9am to 1pm.



### PRAYERS IN THE CHURCH

Please pray for Jerry Hutchinson, Paul Douglas, Gary Bausman, Gary Schaefer, and all who serve and protect our country. Include in your prayers active military, health care workers, and first-responders. Pray for families who have COVID or have lost a loved one due to COVID.