



GOD IS OUR REFUGE

Will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. Psalm 91:2-3

When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Plague, he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now.... "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons when my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God." Luther's works Vol. 43 pg 132 the letter "whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague", written to Rev. Dr. John Hess.

PREVENTION, NOT PANIC: Above all, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we must not live in fear. Our church community is taking every precaution to prevent the spread of disease and keep you safe and as healthy as possible. We continue to pray and prepare, but we cannot and we must not give in to panic. In these strange and bewildering times, let us not tire of doing good, but rather carry one another's burdens. All love and prayers to each of you, and always.

Peace - Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

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>

FROM PASTOR NIRMALA - I want to let you know that I accepted a part time chaplain position at Pine Haven nursing home, Pine Island. I will continue to serve here as your part time pastor with the same hours. This position does not interfere with anything that I have been doing here at Christ Lutheran. Thanks again for all your prayers and support.

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 - OCTOBER

We are off to a great start of ROL Sunday School! If you are interested in volunteering or helping in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at fkovash@hotmail.com or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for October will be:

- 10/3 - God Promises and Gives a Son to Abraham - Genesis 15:1-7; 21:1-7
- 10/10 - God Comforts Hagar - Genesis 21:8-21
- 10/17 - God's Special Home - Exodus 40
- 10/24 - Elijah and the Prophets of Baal - 1 Kings 18:1-39
- 10/31 - No Sunday School

5th Graders will start First Communion Lessons on 10/3 and have them every Sunday leading up to First Communion on 10/31 at the 8 AM and 10 AM services.

Offering collected during ROL and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through June will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. July through December will go to the Channel One Food Shelf. Thanks! -Francine Kovash

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation kicked off on September 8th followed by a retreat to Eagle Bluff on September 11th. The groups enjoyed the ropes course, zip line, and rock wall. We will be busy in the coming weeks coordinating and participating in service projects to help others. Acolyte schedules are posted on the CLC website under youth, confirmation. - 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/>

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

Please join us in the Choir Room at 9:05am on Sundays to discuss the scripture readings for that day. This will be led by Pastor Steve, Pastor Nirmala, or Owen Hoegh.

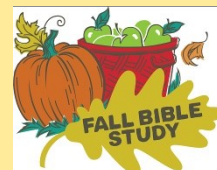
RALLY SUNDAY PICTURES - SEPTEMBER 12

Rally Sunday kicked off the Sunday School year. We have 79 kids registered but it is not too late to register your kids for Sunday School!



MIXED ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN OCTOBER

We will be having conversations on the first 4 Chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans. Made right with God through faith in Christ. Understanding Romans helps to understand the other 12 Epistles that Paul wrote. Paul is writing to both Jews and Gentiles about how we are made right with God.



YOUTH/OUTREACH

2022 MISSION TRIP - LAKE TRAVERSE, SD

JUNE 26 - JULY 1, 2022 Students will assist with 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 12 spots for this mission trip. To register, please submit a registration form located on the kiosk along with your \$125 deposit by 12-1-2021. 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.

Thank-You to Jerry Rieser and Tom VanHeuklom for washing all of the windows in the church.

PICTURES FROM THE OXBOW OUTING - AUGUST 15



FAMILY PROMISE - IHN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are beginning to fill positions for our current volunteer opportunities starting Fall 2021. 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". 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, please let the office know.

SHARING TREE 2021

This year we are sponsoring the Jeremiah Program at the Rochester, MN location. Jeremiah Program offers one of the nation's most successful strategies for transforming families from poverty to prosperity, two generations at a time. They believe that no mother should have to make the untenable choice between investing in herself and her children. Their holistic approach allows families to dream what is possible when they are able to bring all of their identities to bear in pursuit of their goals.

Jeremiah's proven, holistic approach begins with establishing a supportive community for single mothers to pursue a career-track, college education. Through a combination of quality early childhood education, a safe and affordable place to live, and empowerment and life skills training, families find stability and a path out of poverty.

When entering the program each family receives a welcome basket when they move in full of cleaning items, sheets, towels, etc. that they can use and keep.

A list of the welcome basket items will be available on the Sharing Tree mid-October. Thank you for your past support of helping families in need.

Thank you - Altar Committee



FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH LIFE

JOY CLUB

The JOY group is active now. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall on October 12 at 10:30am. According to CLC Council guidelines, masks are to be worn. Individuals who attend may bring their own drink and snack, not to be shared. We will not be using the church kitchen until further notice. Come with ideas for a fall project or trip, such as a drive to LaCrescent, MN to view the colors and stop at an apple orchard. Please contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 or Carol Smith at 507-254-7308 with any suggestions.

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 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, you could pray for each other's high and lows. - Pastor Steve

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND WANNA-BE'S!

It's not too late to join our choir! Practices are posted on the church calendar (next ones are Sept. 29th, Oct. 13th and Oct. 27th). Come join us in the sanctuary at 6 PM and help us make a joyful noise!

COFFEE HOUR

In October we will have coffee available at the kitchen window between services.

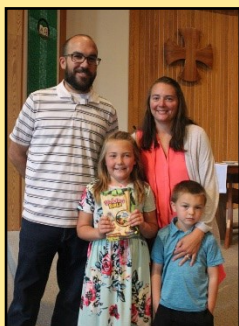
ADVENT CALENDAR - Calling all Musicians!

I know it's early, but let's look to the future. We are planning on creating another online Musical Advent Calendar this year. Advent calendars are meant to help us prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. Each day of December leading up to Christmas, we'll post a carol on our YouTube channel for all to enjoy. Each carol should have a brief devotional to set the mood for the song. If you'd like to participate by providing a carol or two, please contact Julie Carlblom – jcarlblom@kmtel.com for more information! We'd love to have adults, youth, voice and instrumentals to fill our calendar with songs of praise and joy! Start planning now.

BEVERAGES IN THE SANCTUARY

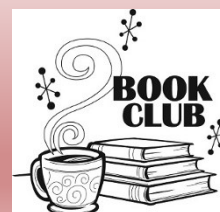
Just a reminder that beverages are not allowed in the sanctuary, to pre-serve our carpets.

3RD GRADE BIBLES - SEPT 19



BOOK CLUB FOR OCTOBER

Book club will be meeting Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00 pm at church. The book being discussed is "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Egan. We decided that we will no longer serve snacks but each person may bring their own beverage. Sylvia Alberts is our hostess for the October meeting. When we meet in October, the book for November will be distributed. Feel free to join us if you are interested in reading a variety of books and sharing your thoughts when we gather each month. Thanks, Kristie Nelson



WORSHIP INFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP

Christ Lutheran Guidelines For Worship, Weddings, & Funerals 9/21/2021

1. Masks are always required inside the Church building 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 & Wine individual package picked up when entering the Sanctuary.
6. Church social gatherings will resume with social distancing and capacity limits in place. Food and beverages (Exception for coffee, see #7) 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.
7. Coffee can be prepared (Brewed) at the Church. Coffee can be served by 1 gloved person or pre-poured cups.

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 9/21/2021

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

A motion to approve the agenda made by Randy Holz and seconded by Dave Schlobohm. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jason Pfeilsticker and seconded by Joe Biewer.

Jason Pfeilsticker submitted the treasurer's report. August ended \$2,491.59 in the red. Income for the year exceeds expenses by \$33,212.25

David Schlobohm gave us an update on the work being done on the HVAC system of the church. The work has begun. It is not yet known when the work will be completed. To date, no billing has been received. Expected cost is around \$25,000.00.

An update to Christ Lutheran Guidelines For Worship, Weddings, & Funerals was suggested by the executive committee. The above are the suggested guidelines. Candee Ostreng motioned that we approve the new guidelines. The motion was seconded by Dave Schlobohm. The motion was approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anna Palmer and seconded by Ben Johnson. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be October 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Danielski, council secretary.

WORSHIP OPTIONS AT CLC

- 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 office hours.

DONATE TO CLC THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE!

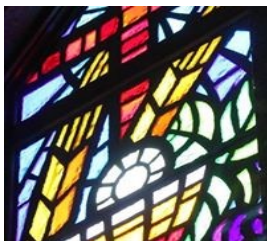
We are now listed with United Way as a 501C3 which means your employer can direct donations to CLC through United Way. Please contact the office with any questions.

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
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 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

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October 2021



Worship Schedule

In Person/In Car Worship - Sundays
 Traditional Service - 8am
 Sunday School/Adult Ed - 9:05am
 Contemporary Service - 10am
 LiveStream Worship
*Communion is offered the 1st and 3rd
 Sundays at in person and in car worship*



CONTACT INFORMATION

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 want to volunteer helping others, call Joan Skare.
 Watch FaceBook at CLCbyron and CLCbyron.org/media/



ATTENDANCE

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	111	0 cars

SEPTEMBER

Date	In Church	In Car
9/5/2021	89	0 cars
9/12/2021	174	2 cars
9/19/2021	192	2 cars
9/26/2021	164	2 cars

REFORMATION - Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission for the sake of the world. The nailing of the 95 theses kicking off the reformation happened on October 31, 1517 or 504 years ago.

PRAYERS IN THE CHURCH

Please pray for Jerry Hutchinson, Paul Douglas, Gary Bausman, Ed Nelson, Walter Prigge, Nancy Nehring, refugees, and families who have lost a loved one due to COVID.

