



## YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD

At first, the sight of God's messenger troubled Mary. However, the Lord immediately sent comfort to the one who would give birth to His son. Gabriel eased her fears: "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30) The task that was set before this young woman seemed far too great for her. Only God could bring her safely through the months leading up to the coming of the Savior.

Are there times in your life when the challenges set before you seem too great or too difficult? God is with you, and He has the solution for your greatest need. In many cases, the dilemma we face is one that God has allowed for a specific purpose. He sent His son to a world entangled by political unrest, injustice, religious piety, and human suffering. There was no lasting peace in the hearts of mankind because there was no peace with God.

God's announcement to Mary that she would bear His son immediately brought conflict to her young life. She was engaged to Joseph. How could he handle the news Mary had received? So Mary had no peace in her heart. But her response was one of faith and obedience. She believed God: "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name" (Luke 1:46-49)

You can gain the same peace that sustained Mary and brought eternal hope to her life by placing your trust in the Son of God. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to earth to save you and me. We are saved from an eternal death when we believe in Him. Peace and hope are ours when our hearts are fixed on Him even though the winds of adversity may be raging all around us.

This Christmas, may the peace of God be yours, and may you rest without fear because, just like Mary, you have found favor with God. (Ephesians 1:6)

I, Paul and Hannah wish you all "MERRY CHRISTMAS" & "BLESSED NEW YEAR"

Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

## 2021 DONATIONS

Just a reminder that all donations for 2021 need to be turned in to the office by Thursday, December 30 at noon.



Steve Rheingans  
Senior Pastor

clcpastorsteve@gmail.com



Pastor Nirmala  
Reinschmidt

clcreinschmidt@gmail.com

## Inside This Edition:

Page 2-3: Education/Youth  
Page 4-5: Fellowship/Outreach/Dec Calendar  
Page 6-7: Church Life/Worship Info/Stewardship  
Page 8: Contact Info/Attendance

# EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - DECEMBER

If you are interested in volunteering or helping in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at [fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com) or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for December will be:

12/5 - Jesus Feeds 5,000 - Matthew 14:13-21

12/12 - Peter Denies Jesus and Jesus Forgives Him - Luke 22:54-62;  
John 21:15-17

12/19 - Christmas Lesson - Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-20

12/26 - No Sunday School. Merry Christmas!

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - SUNDAY, DEC 12 AT 10AM

The final Christmas Program rehearsal for 5th-6th grade speaking and non-speaking costume parts will be 12/12 during Sunday School. The Christmas Program will be during the 10 AM service on 12/12.

**Starting on 1/9/2022 Sunday School time will change to 9:10-9:50 AM to allow more teacher prep time as there is not music time this year.**

Offering collected during ROL and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through June will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. July through December will go to the Channel One Food Shelf.

Thanks! -Francine Kovash, Sunday School Coordinator

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

The confirmation students are learning about the New Testament, focusing on the book of Luke. They have also been busy with service projects helping others locally and around the world. As the end of the year closes in, the students are working to get 6 of the required 12 sermon notes completed. Confirmation Sunday will be April 24th. - Brenda Bendix, Confirmation Coordinator



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REMINDERS :

- Dec 5th - practice with the speakers and do costume fitting for the non speakers.
- Dec 12th - full run through of the program with speakers and non speakers during Sunday school time. The program will start at the 10am service.
- If you have a child interested in being part of the prelude please let Sherri know what you will be doing.

Please let Sherri know if you are not able to be there on Dec 5th. Practice is required on Dec 12th.

Contact Sherri Biewer with questions (701-261-9110)

## MIXED ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN DECEMBER

We are going to continue our study of the book of Romans in December. We will be studying chapters 8-12.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**REGISTRATION** - It is not too late to register for Sunday School. Registration forms are 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 9:15am on Sundays to discuss the scripture readings for that day. This will be led by Pastor Steve, Pastor Nirmala, or Owen Hoegh.

## FIRST COMMUNION - 2021





# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## 2022 MISSION TRIP - LAKE TRAVERSE, SD

**JUNE 26 - JULY 1, 2022 - COMMITMENT IS NEEDED ASAP!**

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 12-5-2021. 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.

To date we only have 2 deposits. If we don't get more commitment, we will be dropping additional spots.



### YOUTH GROUP

We will be starting youth group on Wednesday, December 15th at 7pm. This night will be a social night to get to know each other and plan for the new year. I look forward to welcoming all 9th - 12th grade students.  
-Kristine Ihrke

### TONE CHIMERS

4th - 8th graders into music! Are you interested in playing TONE CHIMES NEXT SPRING? In the January newsletter will be an invitation to some Thursday evening sessions of handbell ringing towards playing one or two pieces in February. If you're really interested now, stop in at 8 a.m. church and talk with Jane Cabaya, the organist, or call Jane at 775-6183.

### THANK-YOU!

The Youth Committee would like to extend a huge thank-you to Kim Postier for leading the Youth Group for the past few years! The kids greatly enjoyed their time with you and will miss your leadership. You have been a blessing. -The Youth Committee



## CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT PICTURES

The Confirmation kids have been busy doing service projects. Here are pictures from a Food Pack at

Feed My Starving Children and cleanup at Rideability which serves families of children or adults with special needs, providing horse back riding and related activities, where everyone is able.





## FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH

**BOOK LOVER'S LEAGUE** - We are meeting on Tuesday, December 7 at 7pm at CLC. We will be discussing the book: "The Geography of Bliss" by Eric Weiner. If you have questions, contact Kristie Nelson. We look forward to seeing at you Book Club!

**JOY CLUB** - The JOY group met Tues, Nov 16. An outing is planned for Dec 7. We will be enjoying lunch at the Country Pleasures restaurant in Mantorville. Meet at the church at 11am for carpooling. See the picture of those who attended the Nov meeting. It was a 'hat' day. Even had two gentlemen visiting with us. Any questions, call Sandy Erickson or Carol Smith.



**CHRISTMAS GOODIES SALE** - Due to COVID, the Christmas Goodie Sale will not be held in 2021.

**THANK-YOU** Dear friends of Christ Lutheran, I want to thank you for sending me the 4 booklet series on grief. They were all very helpful, and brought me comfort. The first booklet came as a surprise, but after that I eagerly awaited the next one. Thank you for remembering me. Love, Lorene Fuchs

**WAX CANDLES AT CHRISTMAS** - We are looking for volunteers to assist with cleaning up wax from the carpeting in the sanctuary from the Christmas Eve service candles. Please contact the church office at [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org) to help.

### FAMILY PROMISE - IHN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our current volunteer 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" in which the volunteer can either prepare, donate or deliver a meal for the families in the program. To sign up, visit <https://www.fprochestermn.org/feed-a-family>

We delivered a meal to the current family during the week of Thanksgiving. The family was so thankful - the kids waved and said "thank-you" out the window as we walked away. It was a very rewarding experience. -Meek 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 contact the office. Another load of food was delivered in November. The barrel is empty and ready for refilling!



### BETHANY SAMARITAN

Last year Christ Lutheran gathered food for the Staff at Samaritan Bethany. It was very much appreciated (and needed) by those who needed it most. We're planning to do the same this year - a box will be placed in the narthex. This year has been a very challenging year for Samaritan - dealing with COVID outbreaks, reduced staff when a staff person tests positive - causing others to take extra, or in some cases double shifts. These people have truly been heroes. Because of the obvious need, based on the response to what was provided by Christ Lutheran last year, Samaritan is starting it's own Food Pantry based on donations. Please consider donating the following types of packaged foods: Packaged Mixes, Cold cereals, Peanut butter, Canned items like fruits and vegetables. Please be aware of expiration dates/use by dates. Everything collected will be delivered by December 20th.

### SHARING TREE 2021

This year the CLC Sharing tree is collecting items for the Jeremiah Program in Rochester. 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 is available on the Sharing Tree. You may donate needed items through Sunday, December 19, 2021. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity. - the Altar Committee



# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00 AM Traditional Worship - In Church, In Car, Online 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship - In Church, In Car, Online	29	30	1 10:00 AM Mixed Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation	2	3 8:00 PM AA	4 10:00 AM Praise Team Practice
5 8 AM Traditional Worship - In Church, In Car, Online 9:05 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed 10 AM Contemporary Worship - In Church, In Car, Online	6 5:30pm Confirmation Service Project	7 11:00 AM JOY Group Outing 7:00 PM Book Lover's League	8 10:00 AM Mixed Bible Study 6:00 PM JUBELLANCE 7:00 PM Confirmation	9	10 8:00 PM AA	11
12 8 AM Traditional Worship - In Church, In Car, Online 9:05 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed 10 AM Sunday School Christmas Program	13 6:30 PM Worship & Music Committee	14 6:30 PM Exec.	15 10:00 AM Mixed Bible Study 6:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Youth Group	16	17 8:00 PM AA	18 10:00 AM Praise Team Practice
19 8 AM Christmas Choir/Bell Music Worship - In Church, In Car, Online 9:05 AM Sunday School/Adult Ed 10 AM Contemporary Worship/Simonson Baptism - In Church, In Car, Online	20 7:00 PM Altar Committee	21 6:30 PM Council	22 10:00 AM Mixed Bible Study 6:00 PM JUBELLANCE 7:00 PM Confirmation	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship with Communion – In Church, In Car, Online – must preregister 3:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM AA	25 Merry Christmas!
26 9 AM Christmas Message and Carols - In Church, In Car, Online	27	28	29	30	31 8:00 PM AA	1

# CHURCH LIFE

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We need 6 families to volunteer to light the candles at both services during the Advent season. Please contact the church office at [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org) or use the signup sheet on the table outside of the church office to volunteer. Available Sundays are December 5, 12, and 19.

**MUSICAL ADVENT CALENDAR** - We will be providing a musical advent calendar again this year. Advent calendars are meant to help us prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. To listen to the devotional, click below and enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJxpPiQzlu7HKTJtKxu3bkO-eg2nGN0cx>

## HOLIDAY SERVICE FEATURING CHANCEL AND BELL

**CHOIR - DEC 19** - Don't miss the 8 AM service on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It will feature extra music by our wonderful Chancel Choir and JuBELLance, including the perennial favorite, "Peace, Peace".

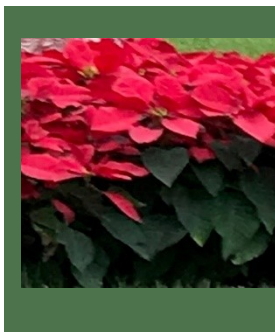
**CLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Thank-you to all the committee members who are serving on the various committees. If you decide that you no longer want to serve, please let your committee chair know. If you are new to the church and would like to serve in various committees, according to your gifts, please let one of the pastors know.

**DEVOTIONALS** - Luther Seminary offers the following devotional that you can receive as a daily email: [www.luthersem.edu/godpause/](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/)

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** - Luther Seminary is also offering an Advent devotional called "Filled with Hope and Gratitude." Link: [luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/](http://luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/)

## JUBELLANCE

If you love to play music, the Handbells may be for you! Our group is fun and supportive! We practice on some Wed evenings. Contact Jane Cabaya at 775-6183.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Order forms are on the table by the office, to purchase poinsettias in Honor Of or In Memory of a loved one. Plants are \$11 each. Order deadline is Dec 12. Plants can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service you attend.

## 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.

## WEATHER AND WORSHIP

If there is heavy snowfall/wind, please check KTTC, CLC Facebook page, or watch for an email from CLC for worship service announcements. It is possible that the the first service could be canceled and not Sunday School or the 2nd service.



# WORSHIP INFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christ Lutheran will have 3 services with communion on December 24: 3pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm. All 3 services will be offered in church, in car, and online. We need the following volunteers at each service to help them flow smoothly: acolytes, communion helpers, readers, projector volunteers, and parking lot attendants. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please let the office know.

## CLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 11-16-2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mark Turany.

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

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

Jason Pfeilsticker submitted the Treasurer's report. October 2021 ended \$2470.72 in the red. Income exceeds expenses for the year by \$11,023.85. Jason also gave us a report on work being done for next year's budget. We should have a preliminary budget for December's meeting.

Discussions were held about getting a hard date for the roof replacement. The current goal is the spring of 2023. We also talked about possible fundraisers needed to raise the remaining funds to get this done.

David Schlobohm gave us a report on maintenance projects that will need to be completed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Candee Ostreng and seconded by Jason Pfeilsticker. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Linda Danielski, Council Secretary.

**PLEDGE CARDS AND TIME & TALENT FORMS** - Remember to submit your Time & Talent forms and Pledge Cards in to the office. To process electronically: <http://www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/>

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6** - 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 to answer questions in January.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** - Please submit your committee reports, for the annual report, to the church office by Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

## 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. We received \$44 in November in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

## PREREGISTRATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES IS REQUIRED

Due to COVID, we are limited on the number we can have in a worship service. If attending in person on Christmas, you must pre-register by either contacting the office or clicking here: <https://clchristmasreg.na.rapidbiz.com>

If you registered for the wrong service, please inform the office to adjust.



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

## December 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](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/)

## ATTENDANCE

### OCTOBER

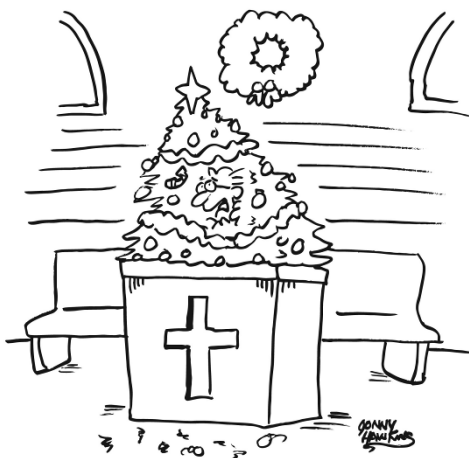
Date	In Church	In Car
10/3/2021	136	2 cars
10/10/2021	178	2 cars
10/17/2021	164	4 cars
10/24/2021	214	1 car
10/31/2021	197	4 cars

### NOVEMBER

11/7/2021	144	3 cars
11/14/2021	136	2 cars
11/21/2021	154	1 car
11/28/2021	118	0 cars

## UPCOMING DATES

Dec 7 - JOY Club Outing, Book  
 Lover's League  
 Dec 12, 10am - Sunday School Christmas Program  
 Dec 15, 7pm - Youth Group kicks off  
 Dec 19, 8am - Chancel Choir/JuBELLance special musical service  
 Dec 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, 7pm Christmas Eve Services & Communion  
*Preregistration required for Dec 24 services, see p7*  
 Dec 26 & Jan 2 - 9am service ONLY!



"Yes, it's beautiful — but can we  
 talk about its placement?"

**PRAYERS IN THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Jerry  
 Hutchinson, Paul Douglas, Gary Bausman, Bob Tweite, refugees,  
 and families who have lost a loved one due to COVID.