



Advent means “coming.” We remember the waiting of the people of God for Christ’s first coming. The season of Advent reminds us that Christ is coming again at the end of time.

The people of Israel waited over 700 years for the Messiah (the anointed one), the Savior. It seems that God is not in as big of a hurry as we are. Even when Jesus came, many did not recognize or receive Him. Why? They were looking for a different kind of Savior, one who would crush their enemies and make Israel great again.

They got a Messiah, a Savior who was much more. One who destroys our real enemies and not our perceived ones. One who has authority to destroy the effects of sin, death and the power of the Devil. One who can keep us from destroying ourselves and our relationships. One who has authority to bring life out of death.

Even today, many people want a Savior who delivers them from all sorts of trouble. Jesus doesn’t promise us a trouble free life. He does promise to walk with us through whatever comes our way. He welcomes us to walk with Him through all the seasons of our lives all the way to eternity. Jesus promises to be with us to the end of time on this earth and for all eternity.

Make sure this Advent/Christmas season that your heart is open to receiving Jesus as He really is. I pray that all of us would grow in understanding the depth of God’s love for us and the peace that comes from knowing Christ is present with us.

Pastor Steve Rheingans

ANNUAL REPORTS - Please submit your committee reports for the annual report, to the church office by Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - 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.

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.



Steve Rheingans
Senior Pastor

clcpastorsteve@gmail.com



Pastor Nirmala
Reinschmidt

clcreinschmidt@gmail.com

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - DECEMBER

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Francine Kovash at fkovash@hotmail.com or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for December will be:

12/4 - Paul Encourages Christians - Acts 18:18-23; 20:1-6

12/11 - Paul is Arrested - Acts 20:13-38; 21:26-23:35

12/18 - Christmas Lesson - Luke 2:1-20

12/25 - No Sunday School. Merry Christmas!

There will be rehearsal for those with speaking parts in the Christmas Program on Saturday 12/10 at 10 AM in the sanctuary. The final rehearsal will be on 12/11 during Sunday School. The Christmas Program will be during the 10 AM service on 12/11.

Offering collected during Sunday School 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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRELUDE MUSIC - If you have a child interested in contributing musically to the prelude music before the Sunday School Christmas program on December 11, please contact Sherri Biewer at sdathe@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - During December we will study Second Peter, a letter of warning from Apostle Peter. He warns us about false teachings and to encourage us to grow in faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please bring your friends!

SUNDAY MORNING VIDEO & DISCUSSION IN CHOIR

ROOM - This video series is an invitation to search, question, and discuss. After the 11-14 minute video there will be a 10 minute discussion. Please join us on Sundays in the choir room from 9:20 – 9:45am. *12/4 Matthew-Losing a loved one

*12/18 Rich- How much is enough

1st Communion



CONFIRMATION NEWS - Dec 2022

The Confirmation class continues to learn about the Old Testament. As a reminder, there is no Confirmation class on December 28th due to Christmas break. We are always looking for ideas for Service Projects as each student needs to complete 3 by the end of the year. If you have ideas or would like to lead a project, contact Dani Esser at esser.danielle@mayo.edu

OLD TESTAMENT FOR ALL AGES

Wednesday evenings at 7pm, everyone is invited to sit in on 35 minute lectures by the pastors on the Old Testament.

December 7 - K Chatelane Refugee Simulation

December 14 - King David; 1 Samuel 16-17

December 21 - Psalms of Help & Trust; Psalm 22, 23, 74

December 28 - No Class

CABIN FEVER DATE NIGHT - December 9, 6-9pm - A Christmas Celebration

Need a night out to start your Christmas shopping? The Confirmation students and mission trip students will be available to babysit your kids. Please join us for a birthday party for Jesus. We will have crafts, games, snacks, a movie, and lots of holiday fun!

The Youth Committee is sponsoring this fundraiser with a free will donation to support the mission trip and bible camp scholarships. Future dates are: January 20, and February 10.



MISSION TRIP - The second \$125 payment was due November 15. The final \$125 payment is due April 1. We have 2 open spots remaining to Benton Harbor, MI for the week of June 25-30, 2023. Registration forms are on the kiosk. Total trip cost is \$375/student. Please consider joining us!

YOUTH GROUP - The CLC Youth Group is signed up to ring bells at Fareway in Byron. We invite our 9th-12th graders to join us from 1pm-3pm on Saturday, December 3rd. We will have hot chocolate available for all ringers. It's a wonderful way to celebrate this holiday season.

November Cabin Fever featured the Byron Robotics Team



FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH

MEALS ON WHEELS - CLC delivers meals to Byron residents Mon - Fri during Mar, Jun, Sep, and Dec. Contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 to volunteer.

JOY GROUP - Joy Group has the annual Christmas potluck gathering on Dec 13 at 11:30am in the room off the kitchen at CLC. A variety of food will be served and the secret pal gifts will be distributed and opened. Hope to see all Joy members present.

BOOK CLUB - Book club will be meeting on Tue, Dec 6 at 7:00 pm at CLC. The book we are discussing is "Goodbye, Vitamin" by Rachel Khong. Feel free to join us if you are interested. The book for January's meeting will be distributed at December's gathering.

CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE - The Memorial Committee will host our Christmas goodie sale on Saturday, Dec 10th from 9am-noon. Please bring your Christmas baked items to the church on Friday, Dec 9th from 6-9pm or on Saturday, Dec 10th at 8am. There's a sign up sheet on the kiosk if you are interested in helping. Contact is Sherri Biewer at 701-261-9110 or sdathe@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING TREATS ARE NEEDED - Sandy Erickson is the December coordinator for Sunday morning treats. Please notify her if you are able to provide a batch of cookies and/or assist with set-up.

SHARING TREE 2022 - This year CLC Sharing tree will be collecting items for the Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Rochester. You may donate needed items through Sunday, December 18, 2022. The Altar Committee thanks you in advance for your consideration and generosity. The list of needed items are as follows:

Clorox wipes and alcohol-free sanitizer, Toilet tissue, Individually wrapped toothbrushes, Paper towels, Tall kitchen garbage bags; large yard bags, Napkins, Cleaning supplies for bathrooms and kitchen, Dish Cloths, HP 62 ink cartridges for our printer, Gently used blankets, Bath towels, Backpacks, Gift cards to Hy-Vee, Target, Walmart or Sam's Club

THANK-YOU - A huge thank-you to all the lefse helpers!! Thanks for making this fundraiser a success!

THANK-YOU - to Dave and Rose Gottschalk for keeping our church clean for the past 13 years!

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.

FAMILY PROMISE - IHN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Our volunteer options are: ***Overnight Volunteer** ***Evening Engagement** ***Life Skills** To sign-up, click the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4FA4AA22A3F94-volunteer1> To sign up for "Feed A Family" in which the volunteer can either prepare, donate or deliver a meal for the families in the program, <https://www.fprochestermn.org/feed-a-family>

POINSETTIAS - 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 11. Plants can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service you attend.

MEN'S GROUP - Is anyone interested? Talk to Pastor Steve.

CHURCH POTLUCK - DECEMBER 4, 11AM - Come Gather at the Table

Current and former CLC members are invited to a potluck following the 10am service on December 4. This is a time to break bread together, reconnect, and celebrate God's grace. Meat will be provided. Bring a dish to pass.

First Communion



WORSHIP/STEWARDSHIP/NEW MEMBER

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION BY MARTHA GEHRKING

November is the month most churches across America traditionally focus on stewardship. It is the time we fill out our pledge cards and time/talent sheets. I see 2 parts to stewardship. I learned the first part of stewardship while growing up in Wanamingo and attending Trinity Lutheran Church there. Every November, my parents filled out their pledge card. Then we as a family, together with all the other Trinity families, took our family's pledge cards to the front of church on Stewardship Sunday and placed it in offering plates that sat on a small table in front of the altar. Once I was confirmed and became a voting member of the church, I, too, filled out a pledge card. We all understood that this pledged money was our commitment to ensure that the church building and all its programs would operate every day throughout the year to meet the needs of its members. So my first understanding of stewardship was pretty much for financial responsibility.

What I didn't fully grasp as a young adult that I understand much better now is the second part of stewardship--- WHY my folks and I filled out the pledge cards then and why I continue to fill it out now. The reason is what I call the "personal relationship part"---the personal relationship I have with God and, therefore, with His people. I give financially because God has faithfully given to me, loved me, walked with me throughout my life's joys and adversities, and has amply blessed me along the way. And because He has continually shared His love with me, He wants me to share that love with others. I have chosen to be a person of faith, and therefore, have chosen to LIVE my faith, honoring God by doing His work wherever I can. I believe God is providing me, through this work, the opportunities to share His love with His people. And I have come to realize that the stronger my relationship is with God, the more ways I have to thank Him for all His blessings!

I encourage each of you to fill out your pledge cards and Time/Talent sheets if you haven't already done so. And when you do, please remember as you will hear in the 2nd Lesson for Today found in 2nd Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 7 & 8, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATIONS - After age 70 1/2 and older, individuals may distribute up to \$100,000 tax-free each year from their IRAs to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing tax returns. 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.

2022 COMMUNION REGISTRATION - Please register for communion once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table.

CLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE - If 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 the council president know or complete our Time and Talent Form. www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - Come celebrate Together for Christmas, December 18th at both services! CLC musicians will present this Christmas cantata that emphasizes the importance of gathering together as a family of God. Come refresh your spirit, join us in praising the "Lord of Christmas" and rejoicing in this wonderful season of hope, peace, joy and love.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - The 3 Christmas Eve services with communion on Dec 24 are at 3pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm. We need volunteers at each: acolytes, readers, hosts, and projectors. To volunteer, use the sign up sheet outside of the office.

ADVENT WREATH VOLUNTEERS - Family or individual volunteers are needed to light the advent candles and read the prayer each week leading up to Christmas. Please use the signup sheet on the table outside the office.

NEW MEMBER INFO - Some of you expressed interest in joining CLC. If you haven't filled out the new membership form please find them at our website.

There will be a new membership class on January 8th at 9:15am at the circle of chairs in the entry (narthex). In this class you will get to know our church practices, our beliefs and our commitment to the mission. You will receive a reminder postcard in January. If you have any questions please call 775-6646. The new member reception is on January 29th at both services.

Thank you for choosing our church as your church home. -Pastor Nirmala



WORSHIP/STEWARDSHIP

EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT - CLC

applied for the Employee Retention Credit that is part of the CARES Act. Christ Lutheran contracted Congregation Consulting Services to complete our submission at a cost of \$1,500. We were able to receive \$20,453.67, which nets to \$18,954. These funds have been applied to the general fund. Without these funds, Expenses would exceed Income by \$17,235.69 on the year.

SAMARITAN BETHANY FOOD DONATION

CLC is a church sponsor for Samaritan Bethany – offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Rehab and Skilled Nursing. The rising salary cost has hit long term care facilities hard. Even though Samaritan has significantly increased salaries of current staff and new hires, it is difficult to attract new staff. Without enough staff, they opted to reduce the number of beds available – from 182 to now 128 available.

CLC will again have a box to collect food items for the staff. This helps provide some differentiation in working for Samaritan and helps attract and keep employees, and helps the families stretch their budgets. Needed are: food stuff – canned goods, dry goods; i.e mac & cheese, etc.; Healthy Snacks, etc. Please no fresh foods that require refrigeration. For info contact, Terry Bird – 507-269-6106 – Samaritan Bethany Board Member from CLC

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, December 4, 11am - CLC Potluck

Friday, December 9, 6-9pm - Cabin Fever Babysitting

Saturday, December 10, 9-noon - Christmas Goodie Sale

Sunday, Dec 11, 10am - Sunday School Christmas Program

Wed, Dec 14, 10am - Christmas Bag Assembly for Shut Ins

Sunday, Dec 18, 8am & 10am - Christmas Cantata

Sat, Dec 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, 7pm - Christmas Eve Services/ Communion

Sunday, Dec 25, 9am - Christmas Day Service/Communion

Sunday, January 1, 9am - Service/Comunion

Confirmation Kids at the Food Pack



Trick or Treat Costume Party



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 for in church and in car worship).
- In-car worship on Sunday mornings at 8am & 10am in the parking lot on 87.9 on the FM radio
- Watch the Live Streamed service at home using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAdS22Tn6Epi6yZqzmNKK2g>

NON-MEMBER DONATION STATEMENTS OR ENVELOPES

If you are a non-member that gives donations to CLC and would like a donation statement or regular envelopes, please contact the office.

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.

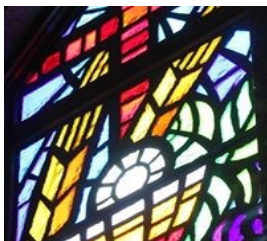
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS - You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars online or call 800-847-4836.

When prompted, say "Choice Dollars" and continue with the prompts. Thrivent is no longer sending out emails indicating you have money to direct. We received \$84 in November in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Christ Lutheran Church
 201 Frontage Road NW
 Byron, MN 55920 www.clcbyron.org
 Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Mon - Thurs
 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

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

December 2022



Worship Times

8am Traditional Worship
 9:05am Sunday School/Adult Ed
 10am Contemporary Worship
 LiveStream Worship
Communion is the 1st and 3rd Sundays



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
 President, Mark Turany 507-259-3820 or mturany@charter.net

2022 DONATIONS - All donations for 2022 need to be turned in to the office by Thursday, December 29 at noon.

ROOF COMPLETION - We have received final invoices from the roofing companies as well as final payment from Insurance. The invoiced amounts as well as CLC's liability are listed below. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations throughout the past several years. The remainder of the Memorial Roof Fund (19,702) will be used to buy and position new lights in the sanctuary. This will also allow us to position lights that moved during installation of the roof as well as replace bulbs that are currently out. The new bulbs will improve both in person and online viewing. Additionally, the east door towards Kwik Trip will be replaced using the remaining memorial funds. This will make the church more secure and energy efficient.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Rob Larson, Carolyn Reinecke, Bob Hoenk, Harriet Douglas, Cindy Wiebusch, Judi Bale, and Cheryl Lovig.

PLEDGE CARDS AND TIME & TALENTS (Volunteer Opportunities) - can be left in the offering plates through Dec 18. Or update online at www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/

ATTENDANCE - 2022

SEPTEMBER

Weekly Avg 168
 2021 Sept Avg 155

OCTOBER

Weekly Avg 200
 2021 Oct Avg 178

NOV	IN PERSON	IN CAR
11-6	206	1
11-13	199	0
11-20	183	0
11-27	166	0
Weekly Avg	189	
2021 Nov Avg	138; 6 total cars for month in 2021	