

THE GIFT OF PRAYER

Do you pray? Do you pray often, or only occasionally? Is prayer important to you?

I ask you these questions because prayer and praying are essential for your life of faith. Like a breath to the human body, prayer makes the spirit live. Without it, faith dies. On the other hand, person who prays grows in spirit and life.

Prayer is a gift of God. "Gift" is good word to describe prayer, because praying is not something we can do of ourselves. "We do not know how to pray as we ought," scripture says. Prayer is a gift God must give. God gives that gift generously to all. So we need to receive that gift and enjoy using it.

Why does God give the gift of prayer? The main reason is because of God's love for us. God looks for intimacy with us. How strange that sounds! God, all-sufficient, all powerful, all-knowing, wishes to draw close, to communicate, to speak to us, to seek our response, to hear our prayer. It may seem unbelievable, but it is true.

At the same time, by praying we fulfill the desire we have as human beings to know God. After all, we are made in God's image. Something in our being thirsts for intimacy with God. That thirst is described.

May we use this Lenten season as a time of worship and prayer. Please use Psalm 18, 31, and 51 as your prayers for lent.

Peace, Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - MAY 4 - There will be an ecumenical national day of prayer service including Global, national, state and local leaders on Thursday, May 4th at 6:30pm, most likely at CLC. If you are willing to help with the service please contact Pastor Steve.

ROMANS 8:14-17 - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY - FLOURISH; LIKE TREES PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER. Saturday, May 6 at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Mankato, MN. Contact the church office by April 12 if interested in being a delegate.



Steve Rheingans Senior Pastor

clcpastorsteve@gmail.com



Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

clcreinschmidt@gmail.com

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - MARCH

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 March will be:

3/5 - Simeon and Anna Wait for the Messiah - Luke 2:25-40

3/12 - Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-30

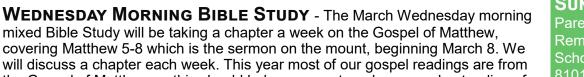
3/19 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

3/26 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

Offering collected during Sunday School and in the globe 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.

Francine Kovash, Sunday School Coordinator

mixed Bible Study will be taking a chapter a week on the Gospel of Matthew, covering Matthew 5-8 which is the sermon on the mount, beginning March 8. We will discuss a chapter each week. This year most of our gospel readings are from the Gospel of Matthew so this should help us come to a deeper understanding of Jesus' teachings in the gospel. Pastor Nirmala will lead the study on March 1 on James chapters 4 and 5.





ROOM - This video series is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. After the 11-14 minute video, there will be a 10 minute discussion. Please join us in the choir room from 9:20-9:45.

Mar 5 - Today (living in the present and appreciating the past); Mar 12 -Name (appreciating ourselves); Mar 26 - Open (Understanding prayer)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - We will meet the first Saturday of each month at Otto's bakery on March 4, April 1 and May 6 at 9:00 and finish before 10:00. We will have a discussion from the Bible for these first meetings. All men are welcome! Pastor Steve is leading this group.

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS - Looking for something fun this summer? Consider attending a Bible Camp. There are day and overnight options available at Good Earth Village, Camp Victory, and Camp Omega. CLC will pay 60%, up to \$225, for registration fees with Good Earth Village, our congregational supported camp. For other Christian Bible Camps we will pay 50%, up to \$225 or 1/2 of the camp cost, whichever is less. Bible Camp Scholarship forms are on the kiosk or website http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ Biblecampedcom.pdf. Scholarship applications are due May 31, 2023.



REMIND TEXTS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL -

Parents can now sign up for Remind texts for Sunday School by texting @clcriv to 81010. Contact Francine Kovash with questions. www.remind.com/join/clcriv

CONFIRMATION NEWS - MARCH

2023 - The Confirmation class now enters the Lent season. It is required for each student to attend Wednesday Lent services. In addition, each class will have assigned tasks to help with Wednesday nights. Each week a class will help with the service (reading and acolyte), one class will help with the set-up/serving of the soup/sandwich dinner and one class will help to clean up. Have your student connect with their mentor on the schedule. 2nd year students need to start working on their Faith Statements which are due to their mentors on April 2. Excerpts from their papers will be read during the sermon on Confirmation Sunday, which is April 23. For questions, contact Dani Esser at esser.danielle@mayo.edu.

PIZZA AND PUZZI E CONTEST

The Education Committee is sponsoring a puzzle contest on Friday, March 10th for groups of all ages! We will be having pizza at 5:30pm with the puzzle fun starting at 6pm. There will be 500 piece puzzles for family or friend groups of 4-6 to put together. Non-members are welcomed to join us as well. We will have child care provided by our Confirmation students for younger family members if needed. To register: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044dabae2ba7fb6-christ#/



Youth

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE - Good Earth Village, our congregational supported camp, is offering traditional summer camp: overnight youth camp, day camps, and intergenerational camps. Goodearthvillage.org

2023 MISSION TRIP - All 15 spots are filled! We will be traveling to Benton Harbor, MI from June 25-30, 2023. The final payment of \$125 is due April 1st.

MISSION TRIP SHARES - Mission trip shareholder forms are on the kiosk. Shares are \$25 and help cover youth and chaperone expenses for the mission trip. You can purchase as many shares as you want. There will be a shareholder presentation following the trip.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER - The traditional Lenten Soup Supper is back! Our Confirmands will serve delicious soups, grilled cheese sandwiches, and desserts from 5 - 6pm on Wednesdays from March 1-29th. The soup suppers are a free will donation supporting Youth Bible Camp and Mission Trip expenses.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY - High School senior recognition Sunday will be held on May 7th. A reception with cake will be at 9am with recognition at the 10am worship service. Your CLC church family congratulates you on completing another important milestone. Families will be sent letters with details on submitting your bio and participating in the service. Scholarships will be presented.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITES - All scholarship applications can be found on the kiosk and are due in to the church office by Sunday, April 23. Please submit scholarships individually in sealed envelopes marked with the scholarship's name.

YOUTH COMMITTEE SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP - will award a \$300 scholarship to a High School Senior. The scholarship is presented on Senior Sunday.

BRENDA HALLAWAY SCHOLARSHIP - will award \$200 to assist any person entering or continuing in an education program, to enhance their skills.

GEORGE JAMSA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - will award \$250 to a student who has contributed to the music ministry at CLC and who plans to incorporate music education while continuing studies beyond high school.

YOUTH GROUP - Youth Group will meet for soup supper and attend worship together during lent. Please join us in the youth room between 5-6 for our soup supper. Contact Kristine Ihrke for more information. Please join us!

PALM SUNDAY FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST - April 2, 2023, 7:30 - noon. The Youth Committee is excited to host the Annual French Toast Breakfast featuring French toast, sausage, bananas, OJ, and coffee. Profits from

this event sponsor CLC youth at Summer Bible Camp and the Mission Trip. Summer Bible Camp and Youth Mission Trip opportunities are wonderful experiences. Many of our youth attend summer after summer. What a great way to invest in our youth. Mission trip youth and their families are expected to volunteer in the kitchen/dining room for this event.

SILENT AUCTION - Time to get creative! The Annual Silent Auction will be held April 2nd from 7:30am to 11:30am. The Youth Committee is requesting themed basket donations or homemade crafts for the silent auction at the French Toast Breakfast. If you or your committee are willing to submit a themed basket or items to make up a themed basket, we would be most thankful. Donations can be dropped off in the office or on April 1 from 9-11am. Profits sponsor CLC youth at Bible Camps and Mission Trips.

Cabin Fever - Feb Byron Fire Dept









FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH/NEW MEMBER

CARD MAKING - Please join us at CLC on Saturdays, Mar 18, and Apr 15 for card making. We will set up at 8am and craft from 9-noon. Contact Joan Skare or JoAnn Brooks if you have questions.

JOY GROUP - We are going to venture to Bridgette's Café in Zumbrota for lunch on Tuesday, March 14. Please meet at CLC to carpool at 10:15am. Bridgette's has soups and salads. Please join us! Contact Sandy Erickson for details.

BOOK CLUB - Book club will be meeting Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00. We will meet at church to discuss the book "This Tender Land". Feel free to join our group if you are interested. At the end of our meeting, the book for April will be distributed. Contact Kristie Nelson for more information.

THANK-Yous

Souperbowl Sunday Collections - Thank you for your cash donations to Channel One and food donations for the Salvation Army! We collected \$241.50 in cash which will be sent to Channel One.

I want to thank the ladies that filled the baskets with all the goodies and also the warm shawl. You are some very thoughtful and kind ladies. Thank you very much. -Ardys Glasrud

Please thank your volunteers that deliver meals to my home. It has helped with recovering from my illness. They are so kind and caring. Thank-you. -Janis Stadheim

Thank-you to Carl Fugleberg and Prime Time Painting for the recent work on the altar area.

Thank-you for the many months of prayers on my behalf. Presently, things look positive as I have completed all recommended treatments. Your prayers and concerns have been greatly appreciated throughout this long process. Thank-you again! -Rob Larson

MOVIE TIME – Movie Time is coming back on Sunday, March 12 at 2pm! Movie titles will be posted on the kiosk. Please join us in the theater room while we watch a family friendly movie. Open to all ages.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Help is needed for the month of March. If interested please contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321. We deliver meals to Byron residents Mon - Fri.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION - CLC collects food in the blue barrel by the front door for the Salvation Army. Thank you for your donations.

FAMILY PROMISE - IHN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Volunteer options are: overnight volunteer, evening engagement, life skills. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4FA4AA22A3F94-volunteer1 To sign up for "Feed A Family", https://www.fprochestermn.org/feed-a-family

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY - We recognized our new members on Sunday, January 29 at a reception with cake and during the 10am service. Please welcome: Carolyn Lewis; Jeff Bell, Matt; Ted & Sara Fairclough, family; Johanna & Matt Hewitt, family; Zach & Alyssa Kovash, family; Brandon & Ashley Mehrkens; Justin & Kellie Glasrud; Chad & Mackenzie Hicks, family

LADIES LUNCHEON - We are pleased to share that we will be hosting the Ladies (formerly called Mother/Daughter) Luncheon this year. The event will be held on Saturday, April 29th from 11am-12:30pm at the church. This is a chance for the ladies of our church and their guests to enjoy each other's company and celebrate all we do. The event will include lunch and entertainment. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for further details.



MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 9:20am Video and Discussion 10:00am Contemporary Worship	27	28	10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm JuBELLance 6:30pm Ash Wed Service	5	3 8:00pm AA	4 9:00am Men's Group - Otto's Bakery 10:00am Praise Team
5 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 9:20am Video and Discussion 10:00am Contemporary Worship	9	7 7:00pm Book Club	8 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Lenten Service	<u></u>	10 5:30pm Pizza & Puzzle Contest 8:00pm AA	11 10:00am Praise Team
8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Youth Committee 9:05am Sunday School 9:20am Video and Discussion 10:00am Contemporary Worship 2:00pm Movie Time	13 6:30pm Worship & Music Committee	14 10:15am JOY Group - Bridgette's Cafe 6:30pm Exec.	14 10:15am JOY Group - 10:00am Adult Bible Study Bridgette's Cafe 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Lenten Service	16	17 8:00pm AA	18 8:00am Card Making 10:00am Praise Team
19 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am All Committee Meeting 10:00am Contemporary Worship	20 7:00pm Altar Commit- 6:30pm Council tee	21 6:30pm Council	22 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm JuBELLance 6:30pm Lenten Service	23	24 8:00pm AA	25 10:00am Praise Team
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:20am Video and Discussion 10:00am Contemporary Worship	27	28	29 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Soup Supper 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Lenten Service	30	31 8:00pm AA	10:00am Praise Team

LENTEN SEASON/WORSHIP

2023 LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS - CLC will be returning to the traditional soup suppers this year with the committees providing the soups and bars/cookies for the meals that the youth will serve. The soup suppers will begin on Ash Wednesday, which will be on March 1, and continue weekly on Wednesdays through March 29. The soup suppers are a free-will donation.

Below is the schedule for committees providing food for the soup suppers:

March 1 Education
March 8 Church Council

March 15 Altar/Memorial/Wednesday AM Bible Study

March 22 Evangelism/Stewardship

March 29 Building & Grounds/Youth Committee

If you find you do not have enough members of your group who are able to donate soup and/or bars, please contact Martha Gehrking. Help will be found for you. Each weekly committee group needs to provide the following totals: 7 containers of soup, 5 quarts or more; 7 pans of bars or cookie equivalency---kids' kinds are great.

The food needs to be at the church by 4:00 PM. If you plan to drop off your soup cold before noon, please bring to the kitchen by noon and plug it in. If you bring it hot, 4:00 PM is fine. Serving by the confirmands is from 5:00-6:00 PM so the soup needs to be hot and ready to serve then. The Lenten service starts at 6:30 PM. The confirmation classes will set up and clean up. In return, the money raised will help support the youth attending summer Bible camp and the youth mission trip.

During this time of Lent, may we all enjoy our fellowship together, support our youth, and renew our spirit of Christ the Lord and Risen Savior. Contact Martha Gehrking, Worship & Music Chair, with questions. Home: 775-6174 Email: tgehrking@citlink.net

Family Promise Stuff - The Family Promise program has evolved. Families no longer spend 4 weeks a year at the church. The program has a facility in Rochester that the families live at. As a result, items that CLC used to support the families staying at the church are no longer needed. The following items are for sale or give away, with proceeds going to support Family Promise, Rochester. Items were purchased by funds donated or given to the Family Promise Program at Christ Lutheran. All \$\$ amounts listed are suggested donations.

- (5) Oil filled space heaters with roll over protection (used) \$20 each
- (13) New air mattresses in the box. Twin size 16 ½ inch with plug in compressor. All mattresses were purchased from Shopko when they had their 'Going out of business sale'. \$25 each
- (10) Used twin air mattresses. Same description as new mattresses. \$5 each
- (3) New Twin Mattress Pads for air mattresses \$10 each
- (15) Used Mattress Pads for air mattresses Give away
- (4) Like new desk lamps w/shades and bulbs \$5 each
- (2) *Used* Pack and Plays **Give away**
- (1) Ten pack LED Flashlights w/batteries (Like new) **\$10 for everything**Other give away items such as griddle, blender, 1st aid kits, toys, videos, etc.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

OFFERING The Ash Wednesday offering will go into regular giving in the general account. Offerings from the five Wednesday night Lenten services will be sent to Channel One unless it is placed in your Sunday offering envelope.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

BOOKLETS - Copies are available on the table by the office or on the website: www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ DevotionalBooklet2023.pdf

LENTEN SERIES - "Stories of faith" will be the theme of our Wednesday evening Lenten worship services for the 4 Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday and before Holy week. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for the liturgy.

We have 4 members responding to some of these questions: 1. How God got you through a difficult time. 2. How faith is helping you get through a difficult time. 3. How your faith makes a difference at work. 4. Key chapters/moments or people that helped you grow in your relationship with God. The four members sharing are Matt Petersen, Sue Briske, Kristine Ihrke, and Sandy Erickson.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 6:30pm Good Friday - April 7, 6:30pm Easter Sunday - April 9,

8 Traditional; 10 Contemporary

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS -

To beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, the altar committee will be ordering lilies and mums from Houston Greenhouse. Order deadline is Sunday, March 19. Prices are: Lilies: \$12.50; Mums: \$14.00.

Items will be available for purchase or pick up on Palm Sunday or earlier through the church office.

WORSHIP/STEWARDSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 2/21/23 - minutes not available at time of printing.

RESOURCES TO CONSIDER...

Some books and resources to understand the Bible. These past two years I have used https://bibleproject.com/explore/ to help teach confirmation class. These videos are designed for adults and have very good background and are able to say a lot in around 10 minutes. They are free and as good as any I have found on the bible and on Bible Themes. There are individual videos on each book of the bible with some books of the Bible having two or three videos.

Jill and I recently went to the movie "Jesus Revolution" In the 1970s, Lonnie Frisbee, Chuck Smith, Greg Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation. Inadvertently, Greg Laurie meets a charismatic street preacher and a pastor who open the doors to a church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds is a counterculture movement that grew out of the Jesus people movement and continues to influence many churches today.

Two easy to read thought provoking books are the

ALL COMMITTEE MEETING - Sunday, March 19, 9:05am For chairs of committees and secretaries, new and old, to register keys to the church and learn how to post meeting minutes to the internet. We will gather in the fellowship hall. Thanks to all our committees for their work!

"Purpose Driven Life" and "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren. They each have 40 short chapters so you can read one a day and think on it. Pastor Steve

FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER TIME - On the first Sunday of each month, Pastor Steve will be available for individual prayer and anointing (optional) at the altar railing. Prayers could include physical or emotional healing for yourself or loved ones. Requests at the railing will be kept confidential.

LENT, A TIME TO REFOCUS

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments—think kind thoughts.

Give up worry—trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement—be full of hope.

Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred—return good for evil.

Give up pettiness—become mature.

Give up jealousy—pray for trust.

Give up gossiping—control your tongue.

Give up sin—turn to virtue.

Give up giving up—persevere.

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/ @christlutheranchurchbyronm10/streams

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 \$565 in February 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

March 2023



Worship Times

8am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 9:20am 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

2023 COMMUNION REGISTRATION - Please register for communion once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table.

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 first service could be canceled and not Sunday School or the 2nd service.

SUNDAY MORNING TREATS ARE

NEEDED - Please provide treats for fellowship time during the months of March and April, if your last name starts with F - J. Please donate a batch or 3 dozen cookies/bars. 15 dozen are needed for



Moses misunderstands his doctor's orders.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Bonnie Poulter, Rosalie Borgschatz, Harriet Douglas, Cindy Wiebusch, Eric Bisping, and Jim Gronvold.

TIME & TALENTS (Volunteer Opportunities) can be left in the offering plates or update online at www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 2022

JAN 2023	In Person	In Car
Weekly Avg	151	0
2022 Jan Avg	92 5	total
FEB 2023	In Person	In Car
2/5/2023	194	0
2/12/2023	176	1
2/19/2023	158	0
2/26/2023	137	0
Weekly Avg	166	
2022 Feb Avg	139 8	3 total
		cars

each Sunday. Help is needed with set up and clean up after fellowship time. If interested, contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321, who coordinates this project.