



### FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS

Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you love me more than these?” Peter confessed three times, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” The Lord then charged him three times, “Feed my lambs,” in other words, “Then serve me.”

Christ is saying to us through Peter’s example that the greatest priority in life is the nature and primacy of our love for God. Here we see a man who had loved God with all his heart but needed to be affirmed in that love before he could again serve fruitfully. Some of us may love him dearly, others may not. But the abiding principle is that before all things, even service to him, we must love him with all our hearts. That is the highest priority in life. It is the essential question for the pastor. It is the number one question for every one of us who wants to please God. Loving God is the highest priority of our lives.

Christians are called to serve, but it is all too easy in the everyday following of Christ to put our priority on service rather than on loving God. Techniques and methods can easily become our primary focus. To carry out our methods we need power, and instead of longing for and loving the source of the power, we sometimes lust for power alone. Production or results, or growth then becomes the center of our thinking. The inversion of life’s priorities is a deadly trap, especially for those who take their Christianity seriously-both Christian workers and caring laymen-because they want their lives to count, to do something that will make a difference.

The fact is, God always made the first priority clear. From the earliest times he has been explicit, even in the **Shema** sung by ancient Israel: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength! (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) Nothing is of greater importance than loving God! If we fail to take this seriously, we may find at the end of our lives that all our works counted for nothing.

I am so thankful to the members who are partnering with us to share the Gospel with others. Please continue to worship, and participate in the upcoming ministries to bring people to Christ.

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Nirmala  
Reinschmidt

**Palm Sunday pictures**



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - May Sunday School Lessons:

5/7 - Paul Prays for the Church - Various epistle prayers

5/14 - Year End Program/Celebration

The End of Year Program will be on 5/14 starting at 9:05. There will be donuts and coffee served in the Fellowship Hall. Preschool through 4th graders will practice music in the sanctuary from 9:05-9:20 in preparation to sing at the 10:00 service. All parents, teachers, and Sunday school kids will meet in the sanctuary at 9:20 for a presentation and slideshow. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this school year great!

Please let Francine Kovash know if you would like to teach or be a helper in Sunday School next year!

[fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com) or 507-951-2234. Those that volunteer to teach next year will have the Sunday School registration fee waived for their kids!

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. -Francine

## 2023 - 2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION

**REGISTRATION** - Registration forms for Sunday School and confirmation will be on the kiosk during May and online. Watch for more details in the weekly emails.

## SUNDAY MORNING VIDEO & DISCUSSION IN THE CHOIR ROOM

- We will watch a 11-14 minute video, and have a 10 minute discussion. Please join us in the choir room from 9:20-9:45. May 14 - Corner (what is success), May 21 - Bible Project Video on Genesis.

**BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** - Are your kids looking for something fun this summer? Consider Bible Camp. There are day and overnight options available at Good Earth Village, Camp Victory, and Camp Omega. CLC pays 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.

**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](http://Goodearthvillage.org)



**CONFIRMATION NEWS** - May 2023 2022-2023 Confirmation has come to an end for the year. Thank you to the mentors and our Pastors for all they did for the kids this year. I want to also thank the parents for bringing their kids each week. More information will be coming in the upcoming months for the 2023-2024 Confirmation year. If you are interested in being a mentor, contact Shaylene Baumbach at [shaylenebaumbach@gmail.com](mailto:shaylenebaumbach@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** - will not meet in May.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - Please join us on Saturday, May 20 at 9am at Otto's Bakery. Pastor Steve is leading the discussion on Titus, chapter 3. New members are welcomed!

**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 was due April 1st.

2023 Confirmation Retreat



# YOUTH/GIVING

**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. Scholarships will be presented.

**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.

**THANK YOU!** For your giving through Christ Lutheran Church. So far this year our offerings are up about 6,000 but our expenses are up about 10,000 since last year at this time. I know that household living expenses are up as well and families are feeling the squeeze. Our snow removal cost is up 2,500 from last year.

Did you know that our building is insured for 4.3 million? That our yearly insurance cost is 13,000? Did you know that our yearly budget is 352,000. Thanks for doing your part to reach others with the good news!

## ELCA LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

*Horn of Africa Drought* - The Horn of Africa is in the midst of one of its worst droughts in recent history, severely impacting more than 15 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Water is needed for drinking, cooking and hygiene, so the lack of water has greatly affected people’s wellbeing. Food security is also a concern as the drought is causing families to lose livestock used for food and livelihoods. In some areas, men are moving their livestock herds to look for water and grazing elsewhere, leaving women and children behind to fend for themselves. Extreme droughts, such as this one, will become increasingly more common as changes in climate affect rainfall patterns.

Our response: Lutheran Disaster Response is supporting an ACT Alliance appeal to address the humanitarian crisis resulting from the drought in the Horn of Africa. CLC gave over \$3,000 last year to Lutheran Disaster Response for drought in East and South Africa.

**FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST/SILENT AUCTION WERE A SUCCESS!** - The Youth Committee would like to thank Randy Holz for his leadership, members who donated breakfast ingredients and silent auction baskets, and those who purchased baskets and dined at our breakfast. We raised \$1,677 on the French Toast Breakfast and \$1,184 on the Silent Auction!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 CONFIRMANDS!!



- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Gretta Biewer | Caylee Boynton     |
| Lily Brooks   | Sophia Buesking    |
| Corah Esser   | Abby Hamilton      |
| Rylyn Hanson  | Max Hessedal       |
| Aiden Kovash  | Cece Meek          |
| Anela Newton  | DrewAnne Oestreich |
| Lane Poulter  | Taylor Sauter      |
| Owen Seifert  | Isaac Sorenson     |
| Noah Theobald | Isabelle Witts     |
| Gavin Zabel   |                    |



## FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH

**JOY GROUP** - Joy Group will meet May 9 at 10:30am at CLC. New members are always welcome.

**BOOK CLUB** - Book club will be meeting Tues, May 2nd at CLC at 7pm, discussing our latest read, "Great Kitchens of the Midwest" by J. Ryan Stradal. This is our last meeting until September as we take the summers off from meeting. Anyone is welcome to join us. Or, think about joining when we start meeting again in September!

**MOVIE TIME** – Movie Time is the following Sundays at 2pm: May 7, June 11, and July 9. Movie titles are posted on the kiosk, bulletin board, or movie room door. Please join us in the theater room while we watch a family friendly movie. Open to all ages.

**SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION** - CLC collects food in the blue barrel by the front door for the Salvation Army.

### **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>

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - Additional helpers are needed. Contact is Sandy Erickson if you are willing to donate your time.

**ROCHESTER AREA VOLUNTEER FAIR** - There will be over 30 Rochester nonprofit organizations where people can learn how they can strengthen our community and get connected through volunteering for a cause they are passionate about! Tuesday, May 9th from 3-6pm at 125 Live, 125 Elton Hills Dr NW, Rochester. Discover non-profit organizations in our community and what they do. Discover how your skills and talents can be used.

**EASTER BASKETS** - Thanks to all who helped with making and delivering Easter baskets to share with our home bounds. 24 of our members received the baskets and they appreciated receiving them.

**RESOUNDING VOICES** - The spring concert for resounding voices, a choir that includes people living with dementia, will be Sunday, May 14 at 2pm at Calvary Evangelical Free Church in Rochester. Tickets are \$10/adults and available at the door.

**CARD MAKING** - Join the creative card making group on Saturday, May 20 from 9am - 1pm at CLC. We will break for June and July and resume in August.



**TEEN GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT** - Sunday, May 7 at 4pm at Mayo HS Auditorium.

**THANK-YOU**– to Harriet Douglas for sharing her beautiful artwork at Easter time!

*Recently seen around the church...*



**BERNE PIZZA WITH PASTOR STEVE BY CAR OR MOTORCYCLE** - The ride will occur on Wednesday, June 21. We will leave the church parking lot at 5:30pm and return to the church around 8:30pm. Send Pastor Steve an email to confirm space. Berne Wood-Fired Pizza. [Bernepizza.org](http://Bernepizza.org)

# WORSHIP/STEWARDSHIP

## CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 4/17/2023

The CLC Council meeting was held on April 18th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Ashley Ebenhoh, Pastor Steve, Jason Pfeilsticker, David Schlobohm, Joe Biewer, Randy Holz, Tom Tweite, Joan Skare

Members not present: Anna Palmer, Ben Johnson, Allie Petersen

Devotions: Joe

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Joan, Jason Second

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Jason motioned Joe approved

Jason presented the Treasurer's report. Income was \$22,697.99. Expenses were \$31,117.18. Expenses exceed income (\$8,419.19). 2023 YTD (\$18,224.59). 2022 YTD (\$15,774.08).

Pastor Lesson

Joan and Pastor gave an Evangelism update and what they have going and coming up

Key lock update: Joe reported that it has not been done.

Jason is getting estimates for getting the parking lot redone and an estimate to get recoated.

Council is moving its meeting night to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to help better fit schedules

Discussion was had on electronic giving and the possibility of using Venmo. A decision has not been made until we find an APP that will suit our church the best.

Tom reported on the Synod Assembly and the open spot we have yet for anyone interested. Also shared the education seminars the Synod puts out for anyone to review.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be May 15th, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Joe Biewer, council secretary

**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.

## SUMMER TIME CHANGES

Sunday worship times will move to one service at 9am beginning Memorial Weekend, May 28 and run through Labor Day weekend, September 3.

Summer church office hours will be Mon - Wed from 9am—1pm from June 5 - August 30.



## 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
- Live Streamed services 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 \$362 in March in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

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

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

May 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](mailto:clcpastorsteve@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Nirmala 507-271-0348 or [clcreinschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:clcreinschmidt@gmail.com)  
 President, Mark Turany 507-259-3820 or [mturany@charter.net](mailto:mturany@charter.net)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Bonnie Poulter, Harriet Douglas, Carl Fugleberg, David Denson, Frances Noland, Dave Spurbeck, and Jim Gronvold.

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

## 2023 COMMUNION REGISTRATION -

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

## SUNDAY MORNING TREATS ARE NEEDED

Please provide treats for fellowship time during May, if your last name starts with K-O. Please donate a batch of cookies/bars. 15 dozen are needed for each Sunday. Help is needed with set up and clean up after fellowship time. If interested, contact coordinator Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321. No cookies needed for May 7.

## FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER TIME -

On the first Sunday of each month, Pastor Steve or Pastor Nirmala 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.



"Next year let's buy two carnations for the oldest mother."

## ATTENDANCE

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Feb 2023 Avg    | 166         |
| Feb 2022 Avg    | 139         |
| Mar 2023 Avg    | 147         |
| Mar 2022 Avg    | 142         |
| April 2023      |             |
| 4/2/2023        | 240         |
| 4/9/2023        | 444         |
| 4/16/2023       | 161         |
| 4/23/2023       | 396         |
| 4/30/2023       | no data yet |
| 2023 Weekly Avg | 310         |
| Apr 2022 Avg    | 257         |