



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NIRMALA

FEAR NOT! I AM WITH YOU! (Isaiah 43:5)

PROMISE FOR THE YEAR 2021

What a year 2020 had been! The Pandemic has caused so many changes in our lives, especially in our churches.

Fortunately, we have been able to find ways to still worship and enjoy creative opportunities to involve in the mission of the church.

As we begin this New Year with some fear and anxiety wondering what this year will bring, Jesus Christ Emmanuel comes to us and reminds us of His promises, power and presence.

As long as we have Jesus who is our Creator, Sustainer and above all Our Savior, we have hope for the future because Jesus holds the future.

Let us cling to the promise Jesus offers to us and continue to grow in our faith by studying God's word through prayer, worship, generosity and service.

Thank you all for your continued support to the mission of Christ Lutheran Church.

Have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor Nirmala Reinschmidt

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please submit your committee reports, for the annual report, to the church office by Sunday, January 3, 2021.



Steve Rheingans
Senior Pastor

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Pastor Nirmala
Reinschmidt

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

ROL NEWS - JANUARY

ROL UPDATES - ROL Sunday School is cancelled for January and February. The Education Committee will reassess again for spring.

6TH GRADE ROL

The education committee met and we would like to resume ROL classes this winter for 6th graders. This would incorporate the classes that the 6th graders have as a foundation for Confirmation in 7th and 8th grade. Please let the office know if your child will be participating in these classes so we can plan accordingly. We are planning to start the classes virtually and plan to transition to in-person when we are able to. The goal would be to start virtual classes in February. Please let the office know if you would be interested in volunteering to help with this. Currently we are planning to have a live or pre-recorded lesson approx 15-20 minutes in length and small group discussion lasting approx 15-20 minutes. We are looking for volunteers for both teaching the lesson and leading the small group. Students can prepare in January by watching The Ten Commandments Amazon Prime with Charlton Heston. It won picture of the year awards (in 1956).



5TH AND 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Ideas have been brought to the education committee to potentially start a youth group for 5th and 6th graders. We are sending out a message to see if there would be interest in this. Currently this would be virtual until safe to meet in person. Please respond to sdathe@hotmail.com if you would be interested in this. We are looking to see how many kids would be interested, how many times per month you are looking at meeting, and if you are interested in helping lead this.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

After a successful start to in-person confirmation we decided to move to strictly online temporarily while school is also completely online. So far so good! The students have done a great job of being engaged in the lessons. Confirmation will continue to be virtual through January 14 and then will be reevaluated.

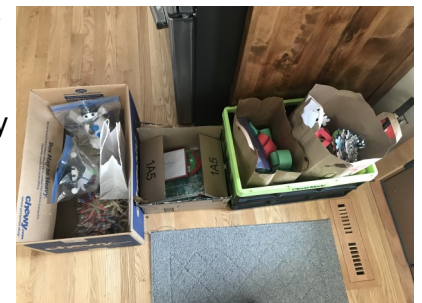
The confirmation team is very impressed with how well the students have adapted to the changes. Sermon notes are still being completed, engagement is still up, and best of all, service projects have been embraced wholly. The most recent project had the students creating holiday decorations to be hung at St Mary's on the Covid floors. Thank you to the Zabels and Rochester Fire Department for allowing us to participate.

Thank-you to the Byron CLC Confirmation for sharing your amazing talents by creating Holiday Cheer to brighten the days and halls of the COVID patients and floor at St. Mary's.



YOUTH GROUP

Please join the senior high youth along with their leader, Kim Postier, on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm for a virtual meet up. We are using Google Duo and welcoming all senior high kids. Contact Kim Postier at postier.kim@gmail.com to get connected to this group.



MISSION TRIP - JUNE 20-25, 2021 - PLEASE REGISTER!!

Christ Lutheran has reserved 15 spots for the mission trip (13 youth & 2 adult chaperones). To register, please submit a registration form located on the kiosk or at: <http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2021-Youth-Mission-Trip-Registration-Form.pdf> along with the \$125 down payment. The Pine Ridge, SD site is not operating this summer so we are in the process of finding a new location for the same week. This year only: since last year's mission trips were cancelled, YouthWorks is allowing last year seniors to attend next summer.

CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 12/15/2020 MINUTES

A meeting was held by CLC council on 12/15/2020 at 6:30pm.

Members present: Candee Ostreng, Mark Turany, Jason Pfeilsticker, Randy Holz, Ben Johnson, Lindsey Dickson, Josh Heinz, Dave Schlobohm, and Pastor Steve

Members Not present: Tracy Leron, Kaia Long, Linda Danielski, and Joan Skare

The minutes and agenda were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and it is estimated revenue will exceed expense at year end.

Discussion surrounding openings for council seats and committee member renewals were the main focus of the meeting. All members are asked to contact their committees and check on renewal for members whose terms are expiring this year. Then inform Mark of the status of your committee. Mark is willing to contact the members if he is aware of the need for assistance.

A discussion of inactive members was also presented and the need to keep accurate records of membership for meeting the Annual Meeting quorum. Moving members to an in-active status simply keeps our records up to date. All are welcome to become active again at any time.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords' Prayer. Next meeting is January 12th, 2021 at 6:30pm. We are meeting a week early to prepare for the annual meeting on February 7th, 2021.

Minutes submitted by Candee Ostreng for Joan Skare

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021, 9:30AM

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 in the narthex in January.

PRAYERS IN THE CHURCH

Please pray for Dorothy Moen, Tanner Leron, Cindy Wiebusch, Dennis Damerval, Nathan Kvitem, and all who serve and protect our country. Include in your prayers active military, health care workers, first-responders, students, school staff. Pray for families who have COVID or have lost a loved one due to COVID.

SALVATION ARMY

We continue to collect food in the blue barrel outside the office for the Salvation Army. The Confirmation kids dropped off the food that was collected and it is ready to collect more food! Thank-you for your generosity.

2021 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Please register for communion by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table. You only need to register once per calendar year.

SAMARITAN BETHANY STAFF APPEAL

Thank You to everyone that contributed to the Samaritan Bethany Staff Appeal. Please see the thank you below from Sue Knutson – Mission Leader/CEO

"Thank you to the members of Christ Lutheran Church who generously donated food for the staff at Samaritan Bethany. This year has been stressful and the holidays are always a tough time for those who could use a little extra help. Your kind donation will help staff members who could use that extra help right now. Your kindness is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas! "



FELLOWSHIP/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

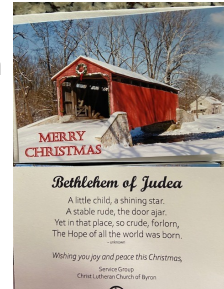
PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

We are looking to form a team of photographers, willing to take pictures of holidays, events, new members, etc. If this is of interest to you, please let the office know or mark that box on your Time and Talent form.



DINER'S CLUB SERVICE GROUP

The Diner's Club made 30 gift bags that were distributed, 28 to Samaritan Bethany Assisted Living and 2 to Madonna Summit CLC members. The group also made cards for Samaritan Bethany Nursing Home and Madonna Summit.



THANK YOU

I thank all of you for the cards and gifts. It meant a lot and brought us comfort and hope. The memorials will be sent to support the following missions in India.

* Siloam Boarding school for Girls * Saron Boarding school for Boys

These schools have been a blessing to the children who come from neighboring villages and from all religious backgrounds. They not only receive free education but also come to know the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for blessing the children with your blessings. - Pastor Nirmala

THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to all the musicians, cameramen and technology people involved in creating the 2020 CLC Musical Advent Calendar. You were a Christmas blessing to numerous people in our church family, community and to those at Samaritan Bethany, who shared your gifts with their residents on their internal TV channel.

- Julie Carlblom

THANK YOU

Jill and I are grateful for your concern and prayers over the death of her father. We are also grateful for the support you have shown in your Christmas greeting and gifts as well. We feel privileged to be a part of this caring community. - Pastor Steve & Jill

THANK-YOU - Thank you to all the families that participated in the live nativity on Christmas Eve and to the kids that assisted with the ROL Christmas program. Thank-you to David Heinz for editing the ROL Christmas Program.



VIRTUAL SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS

Is COVID fatigue setting in at your house? Consider joining a virtual small group to connect with your fellow church members.

CLC currently has a youth group meeting virtually on a weekly basis, very successfully. Other group options could include a seniors group, a young families group, the empty nesters, parents of school agers, a young person's group (post high school), a men's group, a women's group, club 56 for kids in 5th to 6th grade. If any of these groups interest you or you have a different idea, please let the office know if you would like to join or consider being a facilitator. The time commitment would be a 40 minute zoom meeting once a month from December through April. If you would like to meet more often, indicate that to the office at office@clcbbyron.org.



WORSHIP INFORMATION/STEWARDSHIP

WORSHIP OPTIONS AT CLC

We have three options on Sunday mornings, with blended and traditional style alternating, every other week.

- In-church worship at 9am (communion offered the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month).
- In-car worship on Sunday mornings at 9am 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>

To preregister for the indoor Sunday service, use this link: <https://selfservice.na.rapidbiz.com/cloud/login.do?mode=loadLoginScreen&appId=99&orgId=28>

DONATIONS AND THANK-YOU

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity and faithfulness to CLC's mission. Donation options include online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, mailing in a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, or dropping off a donation during church services or our office hours from 9 - 1, Monday through Thursday. Please contact the church office at 775-6646 or office@clcbyron.org with questions.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Just a reminder that memorial donations are posted on the kiosk and no longer in the newsletter.

CHARITABLE GIVING AFTER AGE 70 1/2

Individuals age 70 ½ and older may distribute up to \$100,000 tax-free each year from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing their tax return. The entire distribution must otherwise be deductible as a charitable contribution.

The provision referenced in the above paragraph will allow taxpayers who have reached age 70 ½ to direct the custodian of their IRA account to make a direct distribution from their account to a designated charity. This results in reported taxable income being reduced to the extent of the charitable distribution and achieving a result similar to prior years when they would have itemized deductions. 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. Contact Irv Nehring with questions.

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.

Dear church, I don't know how you are feeling as we come to the close of this calendar year. I know some of you are dragging. I know plenty of you are weary. Some of you are frustrated, and some of you are bone tired.

And I know this: I know the baby in the manger is enough to hold all of this and more. I know Jesus is enough to meet us in this moment and bring us a life of abundance. I know on Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, the one who has come to save this weary world. He is the fulfillment of all our hopes and longings, and he is the one who walks with us in all things.

We may never be enough. That's okay. We don't have to be - because Jesus is. Jesus is enough for you. Jesus is enough for me. Jesus is enough for this whole, weary and wonderful world. Jesus is enough.

Dear church, I pray this Christmas season you would know the fullness of the life of Jesus in you. I pray your weariness would be exchanged for abundance. I pray your tiredness would be exchanged for rest. I pray your tireless efforts to be enough would be exchanged for a quiet confidence in the fullness of Jesus the Christ.

This Christmas, may Christ appear in you and me, and may our hearts know the sweet joy of Jesus Christ. He is more than enough.

In Christ, Bishop Regina Hassanally, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA



Christ Lutheran Church
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 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

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January 2021

Worship Schedule

In Person Worship Sundays, 9am
 In Car Worship Sundays, 9am
 LiveStream Worship
*Communion is offered the 1st and 3rd
 Sundays at in person and in car worship*



CONTACT INFORMATION

CLC CRISIS TEAM

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

PASTOR VISITS - Feel free to call above numbers any time if you want to talk with someone or need a visit from a pastor.

ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER			
Date	In Person	In Car	
11/1/2020 (2 services)	122	13 cars	
11/8/2020	49	9 cars	
11/15/2020	60	11 cars	
11/22/2020	26	11 cars	
11/29/2020	51	14 cars	
DECEMBER			
Date	In Person	In Car	
12/6/2020	43	12 cars	
12/13/2020	59	13 cars	
12/20/2020	48	13 cars	
12/27/2020	34	5 cars	
12/24/2020	3pm 6 cars,		
4:30pm 40 cars, 7pm 13 cars			



In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

1. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
2. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
3. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
4. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)