



GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

The Angels announced to the shepherds “ Good news of great joy that will be for all people”. (Luke 2:10) That’s the wonderful proclamation of Christmas in a nutshell.

The good news is that we have a Savior, Jesus Christ. And it is good news-not good advice or good teaching but good news. That means something happened. God came to us in the person of Jesus. He came into our real world, in a real place, and really lived among us, and really died for our sins and really rose from the dead. He really offers us the free gift of salvation. Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died. So it’s the best news!

And it is news for all people. No one is outside the reach of God’s grace in Christ. All are welcome to come to Jesus, no matter who you are, what you’ve done, or whatever your background-all are welcome to come to Jesus and receive His free gift of salvation. It is the greatest gift that leads to the greatest joy-the joy of knowing Jesus, of living with hope, of being adopted into God’s family, and knowing your future is secure in heaven.

“The angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ‘For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

PRAYER: Father, thank you for sending your Son to save me. Help me to always rejoice in my salvation- and give me the words and opportunity to tell others about the wonderful, free gift of salvation. In Jesus name, Amen

Have a Blessed Christmas! Pastor Nirmala

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - There will be 4 Christmas services with communion on December 24. Our 9am service is a traditional Christmas service with communion. Our 3pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm services will feature candlelight, carols, communion, and the Christmas story. **Volunteers are needed** at each service: acolytes, communion helpers, readers, hosts, ushers (4 per service as the offering plates will be passed), welcome center, and projector volunteers. If you can help, please inform the office or use the sign up sheet on the table outside the office.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - DECEMBER

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 December will be:

12/3 - Be Ready - Mark 13:24-36

12/10 - John the Baptist Prepares the Way - Mark 1:1-8

12/17 - Christmas Lesson - Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-20

12/24 - No Sunday School - Merry Christmas!

12/31 - No Sunday School - Happy New Year!

Sunday School Christmas Program

There will be rehearsal for those with speaking parts in the Christmas Program on Saturday 12/9, time TBD. The final Christmas Program rehearsal will be on 12/10 during Sunday School from 9:05-9:55. The Christmas Program will be during the 10 AM service on 12/10.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION - Registration forms for Sunday School are on the kiosk and online. Kids can join Sunday School at any time.

www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-2024-Sunday-School-Registration-Form.pdf

MEN'S MORNING GROUP - Meets on Saturday morning, December 2, at 9am at Otto's. Saturday Men's Group will discuss what are ways to celebrate Christmas that get or keep Jesus at the center of the celebration. Be ready to share what you remember of family and church Christmas celebrations when you grew up.

ROCHESTER TEEN GOSPEL CHOIR

Rehearsals start in February with a May concert. No auditions, anyone can attend, free event. Contact Tim or Elaine Meek if interested in carpooling. Teenhopeministries.org

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED - DECEMBER

Sunday morning adult conversation open to all ages on the Gospel reading for that Sunday. There is a handout which provides background as well as discussion questions to go deeper.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

December Wednesday morning Bible Study will look at prophecies about the messiah found in the OT prophets and the longing of the people of Israel for a leader who would guide them spiritually, and bring them peace and prosperity in the midst of their current situation.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Wed nights, a 35 minute lecture from 7 - 7:35pm, as part of confirmation class, open to all ages.

Dec 6 - Sheep & Goats

Dec 13 - The Last Supper

Dec 20 - Addiction

Dec 27 - No Class, Christmas Break

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - Senior high kids in grades 9-12, please join Kim Postier on Wednesdays at 7pm at CLC. Bring your friends.

WINTER BLAST AT CAMP VICTORY

January 26-28, 2024 at Camp Victory. Cost is \$165/student, open to kids in grades 3-9. Some activities include tubing, laser tag, and their annual Frigid-a-Rod.

JOHN 1:3-5

³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE - SUMMER CAMP

Sign-Up Sunday is December 3. For one day only families can take advantage of a 40% discount on Tier 1 prices for overnight, onsite youth camps. Registration will be available at www.goodearthvillage.org/summer Good Earth Village is our congregationally supported church camp offering summer youth camps. CLC pays for 60% of camp costs (up to \$225 max per kid) for kids attending Good Earth Village.

Trick or Treat Costume Party



YOUTH/FELLOWSHIP

MOVIE TIME - JoAnn Brooks is collecting "movie Ideas/themes" for the Theatre at the church going into 2024. What movies are folks interested in? There will also be a box on the coffee table during coffee hour in the fellowship hall to put your suggestions in.

MISSION TRIP - 2024 - St. Louis, MO from June 15-21, 2024. CLC has booked 13 youth and 2 adult leader spots. If interested for youth spots please submit a \$150 deposit and registration form, found on the kiosk. Interested adults, please contact the office. Trip is open to youth that complete 8th - 12th grade in 2024. Spots are guaranteed when a deposit is received. We 2 available youth spots. Payment schedule: 1st Payment \$150 due November 15. **2nd payment \$125 due December 15.** 3rd Payment \$100 due April 1. Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Steve.

BOOK CLUB - Our next book club meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 5th at church. Please note that we have changed our meeting time to 6:00 pm for the winter months.

We will be discussing "The Great Alone " by Kristin Hannah. Feel free to join us if you are interested. When we meet on Dec 5th, the next book for our January meeting will be distributed.

JOY GROUP - The Joy Group is tentatively not scheduling meetings in Jan and Feb. The weather may be an issue and some may be out of state for the winter. The Dec meeting is Tues, Dec 12 at 11:30 in the room by the kitchen. All of this Group are welcomed to help decorate the room on Sun, Dec 10 in preparation for our Dec 12 Christmas potluck and white elephant party. New members are welcomed to join our group.

CARD MAKING - Card making group will not meet until January, on Saturday, Jan 20. New crafters always welcomed!

BEGINNER QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - The Sewing/Quilting group will not meet in Dec. We will meet Sat, January 13, 2024 from 9 until noon. Please contact Chris Polzin with questions at 507-269-7579 or mpolzin@frontiernet.net

THANK-YOU - We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped with the lefse fundraiser. This was a huge process and could not have been done without all the volunteers. We raised \$1,380 for the parking lot fund. -Joe & Sherri Biewer

CABIN FEVER DATE EVENT - Sun, Dec 3, 11am-3pm

Leave your kids after church for fun and adventure while parents finish up Christmas shopping or catch lunch and a movie. Lunch and snacks will be served. The theme is Bible heroes. Babysitters will be mission trip kids and confirmation kids, along with adult supervision. Kim Postier is coordinating. This event is open to CLC members and the community.

We will be visited by some firemen with a fire truck. Additionally there will be games, a special Bible visitor, karaoke, crafts, movie, decorate cookies, and lots and lots of fun!

The Youth Committee is sponsoring this fundraiser to support the mission trip and bible camp scholarships. We will be accepting free will donations.

Recently seen around CLC...



Lefse making and Trick or Treat Costume Party



FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH



Come and learn of Christmas celebrations around the world!!
Sundays 9:00 am to 10 am

Norway – November 26, 2023

Bosnia – December 3, 2023

India – December 17, 2023

Hear stories of their traditions and sample foods they savor
when celebrating the birth of Christ.

Merry Christmas! God Jul! Srećan Božić! Natal Mubarak!

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS STORY - Family Promise is partnering with Olmsted County to invest in a new family homeless shelter.

<https://clcb Byron.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=90ccbec4057adf7aeabdb93c2&id=cbb7737285&e=c10a36caf9>

CLC SHARING THE HOLIDAY SEASON 2023 - This year CLC Sharing tree will be collecting items for Woman's Shelter House in Rochester. The focus of the Woman's Shelter is to provide temporary shelter and services to people impacted by domestic violence while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change. Their goal is for all people to live safely with freedom and dignity in our communities.

A list of the items needed is below. You may donate needed items through Sunday, December 17, 2023. Thank you for your generosity.

* School supplies: Scissors, Folders plastic (Red, Blue, Yellow and Green), Crayons, Colored pencils, Pencils (sharpened preferred), Erasers, Glue (bottles and sticks), Highlighters, Markers * Non-Perishable Food and Snacks (individual packets, i.e., Potato chips, granola bars, fruit bars, pretzel bits, raisins, fruit packets, animal crackers, and microwave popcorn. * Baby Wipes * Paper products (toilet paper, napkins, tissues) * Ecofriendly plates, bowls microwavable and cutlery. * Cleaning supplies (dish soap, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfectant spray) * Adult color/activity books & colored pencils * Kitchen utensils (spatulas, whisks, wooden spoons, measuring cups/spoons, peeler, graters, cutting boards, knife sets, ladels, can openers, kitchen scissors, baking sheets, pot holders) * Gift cards to Visa, Hy-Vee, Target, Walmart



CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE

The Christmas Goodie Sale is on Sat, Dec 9th from 9-11am. Each family is encouraged to

donate a batch of their favorite baked goods. Items can be dropped off Fri, Dec 8 from 4-6pm or Sat, Dec 9 from 8-9am. If interested in helping contact Sherri Biewer at 701-261-9110 or sdathe@hotmail.com.

Proceeds benefit the parking lot fund.

FAMILY PROMISE 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>

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 \$12 each. Order deadline is Dec 10. Plants can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service you attend.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION

Food is collected in the blue barrel by the front door.



Ruth Brooks talks about Norwegian traditions in the first Christmas Around the World event.



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

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.

2023 DONATIONS - All donations for 2023 need to be turned in to the office by Sunday, December 31.

PLEDGE CARDS AND TIME & TALENTS

(Volunteer Opportunities) - can be left in the offering plates through Dec 24. Or update online at www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, February 4 - 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.

SAMARITAN BETHANY FOOD DONATION CLC is a church sponsor for Samaritan Bethany – offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Rehab and Skilled Nursing. 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

Sun, Dec 3, 9am - Christmas Around the World - Bosnia
11am - 3pm - Cabin Fever Babysitting
Sat, Dec 9, 9-11am - Christmas Goodie Sale
Sun, Dec 10, 10am - Sunday School Christmas Program
Tues, Dec 12, 11:30am - JOY Group Christmas potluck
Sun, Dec 17, 9am - Christmas Around the World - India
Sat, Dec 24, 9am, 3pm, 4:30pm, 7pm - Christmas Eve Services/Communion
Sunday, Jan 31, 9am - Traditional Service

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.

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).
- 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 \$9 in October 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 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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray

for Betty Strain, Mavis Perry, Ginger Knight,
 Sharon Johnson, and Becky Dathe.

2023 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

SUNDAY MORNING TREATS ARE NEEDED

There will be no fellowship time on Dec 24 and Dec
 31. Please provide a batch of cookies/bars for fellow-
 ship time during Dec, if your last name starts with U-Z.
 Help is needed with set up and clean up after fellow-
 ship time. If interested, contact Sandy Erickson at 507
 -259-2321.

CLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thank-you to all the committee members who are
 serving on the various committees. We are so appreci-
 ative of the work you have been doing at Christ Lu-
 theran. 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 complete our Time and Talent form.
www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/



ATTENDANCE

Sep 2023 Avg	201
Sep 2022 Avg	168
Oct 2023 Avg	215
Oct 2022 Avg	200
11.5.23	218
11.12.23	206
11.19.23	206
11.26.23	181
Nov 2023 Avg	203
Nov 2022 Avg	189

ANNUAL REPORTS - Please submit your committee reports for the annual report, to the church office by
 Thursday, January 4, 2024.