



The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word."

We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving. This endless knowing and understanding— all this came through Jesus, the Messiah. No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day. John 1:14-18 from The Message translation.

I hope you had a meaningful Christmas and that your New Year is off to a good start. With the changing of the year it's a good time to think about personal and family priorities and goals for the next year. I am hopeful that maybe it's this year I start to lose some weight permanently. I have been hopeful that this would happen last year and the year before too and the years before as well. There is a huge difference between wishful thinking and having an intentional plan to make it happen as well as perseverance to follow through. I think I thought I learned that last year....

The same applies to our spiritual life. Good habits take discipline and while they don't guarantee results, good spiritual formation habits make growing in faith more of a possibility. Being sensitive to where God is stirring in the world and in my soul means being alert and attentive to God.

Having good habits of worshipping regularly, personal devotions, Bible reading, praying, giving, and serving with others make it more likely that we grow in our faith. The same is true for our children. Good habits make a good life more likely.

Looking back at this past year at Christ Lutheran I am grateful for all the ways we worked together to make Christ's love known here in Byron and to the ends of the earth. I am grateful for the new members we have and that many are helping to equip all ages to love and serve God. I am grateful for your generosity in sharing your time, talents, and treasure to serve the mission of God through Christ Lutheran. I look forward to growing in faith together this New Year as we worship and serve Jesus Christ. Thank you for the Christmas cards, photo's and gifts.

May the Lord continually bless and guide you! -Pastor Steve

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED - JANUARY 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.

MEN'S MORNING GROUP - Sat morning, January 6 at 9am, discussion with rolls and coffee at Otto's will discuss the coming of the wise men to see Jesus from Matthew 2 and the escape to Egypt. Wise men still seek Him!



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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR JANUARY

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

The lessons for January will be:

1/7 - Jesus' Baptism - Mark 1:4-11

1/14 - God Calls Samuel - 1 Samuel 3:1-20

1/21 - Jonah and the Big Fish - Jonah 1-4

1/28 - Teaching and Healing - Mark 1:21-28

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

CARD SALES FUNDRAISER

The Youth Committee is selling greeting cards to raise money for Bible camp scholarships and the mission trip. Cards are \$1 each and located on the table outside of the office.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This month we are studying 1st Thessalonians. This study will help us to find answers to the following questions.

Is it possible for the christian faith to survive and thrive in a world that's indifferent at best and hostile at worst? What does such a faith look like-at home, at work, and in other places where Christ's people find themselves? All are invited to come and learn. - Pastor Nirmala

SAVE THE DATE! The education committee will host the 2nd annual pizza and puzzle contest on Friday March 8th. Please watch for sign up information closer to the event.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

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

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Jan 3 - Crucifixion

Jan 10 - Mental Health dinner at 5:30 with parents

Jan 17 - Resurrection

Jan 24 - Pentecost, meet at 7:30pm

Jan 31 - The Call of Saul/Paul

MISSION TRIP - 2024 - St. Louis, MO from June 15 -21, 2024. CLC has booked 13 youth and 2 adult leader spots. All spots are filled! **2nd payment of \$125 is due.** 3rd Payment \$100 due April 1. Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Steve.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE - SUMMER CAMP

Registration is available for youth summer camp at www.goodearthvillage.org/summer Good Earth Village is our congregationally supported church camp. CLC pays for 60% of camp costs (up to \$225 max per kid) for kids attending Good Earth Village.

WINTER BLAST AT CAMP VICTORY

January 26-28, 2024 at Camp Victory. Cost is \$165/student, open to kids in grades 3-9.

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. Teenhopemministries.org



Christmas Program



OUTREACH/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.

BOOK CLUB - Our next book club meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 2nd at church. Please note that we have changed our meeting time to 6:00 pm for the winter months.

We will be discussing "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant. Feel free to join us if you are interested. When we meet on Jan 2nd, the next book for our February meeting will be distributed.

JOY GROUP - The Joy Group is tentatively not scheduling meetings in Jan and Feb.

CARD MAKING - Card making group will meet on Saturday, January 20 from 9–1 New crafters always welcomed!

BEGINNER QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - The Sewing/Quilting group will meet Sat, January 13, 2024 from 9 until noon. Please contact Chris Polzin with questions at 507-269-7579 or mpolzin@frontiernet.net

SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Please bring in your Food Shelf items to donate, or a cash donation for Channel One on or before Souperbowl Sunday, Feb 11.

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>

SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION

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

MEALS ON WHEELS

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the meals. If interested, please contact Sandy Erickson who is project coordinator. Thank you to all who currently volunteer.

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.

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.

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Goodie Sale. Over \$900 was raised for the parking lot fund.

Recently seen around CLC...

Christmas Around the World - India



CALENDAR/JAN - FEB SUNDAY SERVICE WORKERS

STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

TIME & TALENTS (Volunteer Opportunities) - can be left in the offering plates 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.

WHAT DOES THE LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE DO? Since 1939 Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has worked to create welcoming communities for newcomers—immigrants and refugees who have been forced to leave their homes and begin anew. We help people seeking safety from persecution in their home countries and reunite families torn apart by conflict.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP - Sunday, December 31 at 9am

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sun, Feb 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 Jan.

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

LENTEN SEASON - Lenten services with soup suppers will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Watch the February newsletter for more details.

2023 DONATIONS - All donations for 2023 need to be turned in to the office by Sunday, December 31 at 11am.

ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
Sunday, Feb 4, 2023, early afternoon.

ONLINE GIVING - We have 2 options for e-giving.

Venmo

Vanco

www.clcbyron.org/giving/



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 \$163 in November in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

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

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

January 2024



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

SUNDAY MORNING TREATS ARE NEEDED Please

provide a batch of cookies/bars for fellowship time during Jan, if your last name starts with A-D. Help is needed with set up and clean up after fellowship time. Contact is Sandy Erickson 507-259-2321.

CLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thank-you to all the committee members who are serving on the various committees. We are so appreciative of the work you have been doing at Christ Lutheran. 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/

THANK-YOU - I want to thank my church family for honoring me with well wishes and birthday cards on my 90th birthday! It has been a journey with ups and downs, but a blessing the Lord has allowed me. Thanks again, Jeanne Tweite

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Mary Jo Peterson, Bill Jones, Mavis Perry, Ginger Knight, Sharon Johnson, and Becky Dathe.

2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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



ATTENDANCE

Oct 2023 Avg	215
Oct 2022 Avg	200
Nov 2023 Avg	203
Nov 2022 Avg	189
12.3.23	213
12.10.23	350
12.17.23	208
12.24.23	
12.31.23	
Dec 2023	
Dec 2022	239