



STAND FIRM

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent marks the 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). It is a liturgical season focused on repentance, penitence, and preparation. Each year during Lent we are invited to deepen our commitment to Christ and to His mission. Through our various disciplines of scripture reading, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and service to the poor and others in need, we deepen our discipleship.

On this year’s Lenten journey, we will be learning to be strong in our faith through listening to the dramatic presentation of the Biblical characters who persevered through struggles, deepened their faith in God, and inspired generations of believers.

We will be hearing the stories of Moses, Esther, Daniel, Jesus and Paul who spoke courageously as they were threatened by their enemies. We can identify with them when we hear their struggles and to know how they were able to withstand the opposition.

I encourage you to attend the Lenten services regularly so that you will be able to receive inspiration to grow stronger in your faith.

Peace and Joy, Pastor Nirmala

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

A CROSS MADE BY ASHES The observance of Ash Wednesday, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, dates from at least the eighth century A.D. The ancient custom was for the worshipers to approach the altar before the beginning of the Mass. A priest would dip his thumb into ashes made from the previous year’s Palm Sunday palms and make the sign of the cross on each person’s forehead.

Ash Wednesday is a time for repentance and the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express penitence. Dusting themselves with ashes was the penitent’s way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. An ancient example of one expressing his penitence is found in Job 42:3-5. Job says to God: “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (v. 5, NRSV).



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

The lessons for February will be:

2/4 - Jesus Heals - Mark 1:29-39

2/11 - The Transfiguration - Mark 9:2-9

2/18 - No Sunday School

2/25 - Abraham and Sarah's Visitors - Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Preschool through 4th graders will sing at the 8 AM service on 2/4.

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

In order to understand the Bible its important to understand the main promises and events in the old testament and what they meant. Our time together in February will seek to understand the main promises, themes and events from creation to Jesus.

1. Creation to Fall, 2. Abraham to Canaan & Egypt
3. Egypt to the Land of Israel
4. Kings & Prophets, exile & return

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. 2-7: The Love Hymn; 2-14: Ash Wed service; 2-21 & 2-28: Lent Service

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.

ROCHESTER TEEN GOSPEL CHOIR

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

MISSION TRIP SHARES Forms can be found on the kiosk. Shares are \$25 each and help cover youth and chaperone expenses on the mission trip. There will be a presentation following the trip in June.

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS Registration forms for Bible Camp Scholarships are on the kiosk or on our website. CLC will pay 60%, up to \$225, of the registration fees at 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. Some area camps to consider are Good Earth Village, Camp Victory, and Camp Omega. To access the scholarship form online: www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Biblecampedcom.pdf

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - Applications will be located on the kiosk in later February.

PIZZA & PUZZLING

CONTEST Please join us for our 2nd annual puzzle contest on Friday, March 8th. We will start the evening with pizza at 5:30 with puzzles starting after around 6:00.

Come as a group or as an individual to enjoy an evening of food, fun and puzzling. Watch for a sign up for this event closer to the event.



PALM SUNDAY FRENCH TOAST

BREAKFAST March 24, 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 for this event.

SILENT AUCTION

Time to get creative! The Annual Silent Auction will be held March 24 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 Mar 23 from 9-11am. Profits sponsor CLC youth at Bible Camps and Mission Trips.

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, Feb 6th at church. Please note that we have changed our meeting time to 6:00 pm for the winter months.

We will be discussing "Heart In the Right Place," by Carolyn Jordan. Feel free to join us if you are interested!

JOY GROUP The Joy Group is not meeting in Feb.

CARD MAKING Card making group will meet on Saturday, Feb 17 from 9–1 New crafters always welcomed!

BEGINNER QUILTING/SEWING GROUP

The Sewing/Quilting group will meet Sat, Feb 10 from 9 - noon. 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>

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.

SUNDAY MORNING VIDEO & DISCUSSION IN CHOIR ROOM - FEBRUARY For February we are going to return to the video series from last year. 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.

Feb 11 - Rain (where is God in tough times); Feb 18 - Dust (be yourself); Feb 25 - Flame (love);

MEN'S MORNING GROUP

How did Jesus deal with temptation? How do you deal with temptation? Come join the discussion at Otto's with a tempting pastry. Saturday, Feb 3, 9am, Otto's Bakery.

THANK - YOU

We want to thank you so much for thinking of Family Promise and doing a donation drive for us. We are very appreciative of your continued partnership and support. Sincerely, Family Promise staff

SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION

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

Recently seen around CLC...



LENTEN SEASON

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS The soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays through March 20 from 5-6pm. The soup suppers are a free will offering.

Below is the schedule for the Lenten Soup Suppers:

February 14 - Worship/Music + Musicians

February 21 - Education & Alter Committees

February 28 - Church Council

March 6 - Memorial & Building/Grounds

March 13 - Evangelism

March 20 - Youth & Stewardship

If you find that you do not have enough members in your group that are able to donate soup or bars, please let me know. I have a list of volunteers who have offered to help.

Please assign members of your group to bring the following: **7 containers of soup, 5 quarts or more 7 pans of bars, kids' kind are great**

The confirmation classes will provide all other food items.

The food needs to be at the church by 4:00 PM. (If your soup is cold, please bring by noon; if hot, by 4:00 PM.)

The confirmation classes will do the set up and clean up. In return, the money raised supports the youth to attend summer Bible camp and the youth mission trip.

During this time of Lent, may we all enjoy our fellowship together, support our youth, and be renewed in the spirit of Christ our Lord and Risen Savior.

Please contact me with any questions.

Julie Carlblom, Worship & Music Committee

Cell: 250-1302 Email: jcarlblom@kmtel.com

50 YEARS OF ELCA WORLD HUNGER OUTREACH

In 1974, as hunger increased at an alarming rate around the world, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger appeals. Members of Lutheran congregations across the country participated by fasting for one meal per week and donating the cost of that meal to their neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Those appeals eventually grew into ELCA World Hunger, which is now at work addressing the root causes of poverty in 67 countries around the world, including the United States.

Over the last 50 years, hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have

contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger. Countless more have prayed for our shared mission, led their congregations in special fundraising efforts, volunteered at local hunger ministries, or advocated to change policies and systems that perpetuate injustice. Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty, providing food to meet immediate needs while equipping communities to foster long-term change through access to education and quality health care, sustainable solutions in agriculture, and advocacy for just laws that make ending hunger possible.

This year we will look back at everything we have accomplished through ELCA World Hunger, and we will look ahead to the challenges we still face. There will be opportunities to get involved, learn and take action in our mission to end hunger and poverty for good. Join us and be part of the story of our next 50 years together — boldly and faithfully pursuing God's promise of a just world where all are fed.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT OFFERING The Ash Wed offering will go into regular giving in the general account. Offerings from the five Wednesday night Lenten services will be sent to World Hunger unless it is placed in your Sunday offering envelope.

LENTEN SERVICE DETAILS

This year during the Lenten season we will learn the stories of the following people who stood strong in their faith in spite of the persecution they faced. This drama series will help us see how we can stay strong in our faith and stand up for what we believe is true.

Soup suppers will run from 5-6pm with all evening services starting at 6:30pm.

Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes

Feb 21 - Moses and Pharoah

Feb 28 - Daniel and Friends

Mar 6 - Esther and King Xerxes

Mar 13 - Paul and Agrippa, Roman Governor

Mar 20 - Jesus and Pilate

Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion

Mar 29 - Good Friday Worship

Thanks to all the actors who shared their gifts of acting to glorify the Lord.

Thanks to Ruth Vining for writing the drama scripts.

Thanks to Martha Gehrking for recruiting actors and helping with the costumes for the actors.



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Tickets/bracelets will be handed out at the Annual Meeting on February 4th to members of the congregation to sell and/or purchase. \$10 per ticket/bracelet. Drawing on March 24, 2024 at CLC. Prizes include \$500 cash, half of a hog plus processing, women's spa package, \$100 Fareway meat package, gift and gas cards and much more. Contact Sarah Johnson (507-421-8941) or Kim Postier (507-269-5326) from the Stewardship Committee with questions.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports are available in the entry or at this link: www.clcbyron.org/about/policies/

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

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.

2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION - Please register for communion once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration tables.

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.

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

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

Venmo



Vanco

www.clcbyron.org/giving/



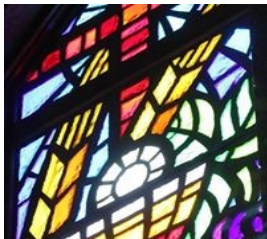
DONATE TO CLC THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE!
We are now listed with United Way as a 501C3 which means your employer can direct donations to CLC through United Way. Please contact the office with any questions.

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
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 Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Mon - Thurs
 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
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 Permit Number 17

February 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 Feb, 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.

FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER TIME On the first Sunday of each month, either pastor 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.

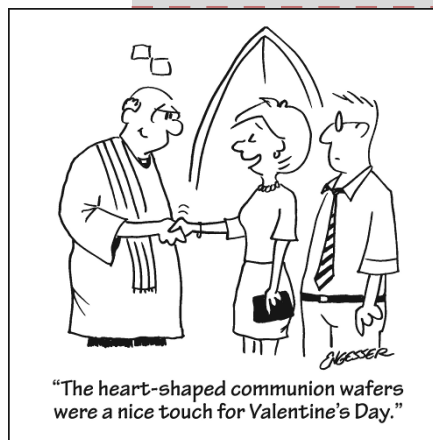
THANK-YOU Just a note of thanks a million for the nice bag of goodies and useful items I received from all the sweet ladies at CLC. You gals are very special!
 Most sincerely, Bev Smith

Thanks so much for the Christmas basket I got with all the good things. I enjoyed it all. Thank you and God bless. Stella Anderson

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Mary Jo Peterson, Bill Jones, Ginger Knight, Sharon Johnson, Ruth Brooks, Linda Bausman, Darell Carlblom, Al Hovey, Alex Hoerle, and Becky Dathe.

2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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



ATTENDANCE

Nov 2023 Avg	203
Nov 2022 Avg	189
Dec 2023 Avg	295
Dec 2022 Avg	239
1/7/2024	142
1/14/2024	228
1/21/2024	185
1/28/2024	no data
Jan 2024 Avg	185
Jan 2023 Avg	151