



**PASTOR’S MESSAGE**

Hopefully by now you have heard the news that I will be retiring in June with my last Sunday being June 16. If you would like a copy of the letter, call the church office. It has been and continues to be a privilege to journey together with Jesus. The council is in conversation with the Synod as to what comes after my departure. Please pray for the next chapter in the mission of God through Christ Lutheran. I pray that you will be as good to the next senior pastor as you were to me. ***For information on CLC’s transition process, see page 5.***

With what seems like an early spring, followed by a mild winter, Holy week is early this year as well – March 24 - 31.

The events of Holy week changed the spiritual geography of the world opening a door for each of us to be forgiven and set free to live in a restored relationship with God and others now and forever. I invite you to deepen your understanding of the events of Holy Week by participating in our Holy Week services starting with Palm Sunday on March 24. Breakfast on Palm Sunday will be 7:30-noon with a free will offering going to mission Tripsters and Bible Camps.

Remember what it was like for Jesus to have his last meal with his disciples before his betrayal, death and resurrection on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 with communion.

Remember the depth of love revealed on the cross for you with the option of nailing your sins on a piece of paper to a cross. It was for us that he suffered and laid down His life.

Easter morning we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection was God trampling death for all time for those who trust in Jesus. Ever since, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Holy week reveals the depth of God’s love and the strength of God’s power over death. Nobody does resurrection like Jesus.

May you be blessed as you remember all that Jesus has done for us! Invite a friend or neighbor to join us in worshipping our risen Lord.

Pastor Steve



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Inside This Edition:  
Page 2-3: Education/  
Youth/Fellowship/  
Outreach  
Page 4-5: Lent/  
Easter/Stewardship/  
Worship  
Page 6: Prayers/  
Attendance

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MARCH

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

The lessons for March will be:

3/3 -The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17

3/10 - Easter Lesson - The Empty Tomb - Mark 16:1-8

3/17 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

3/24 - No Sunday School - Palm Sunday, Spring Break

3/31 - No Sunday School - Happy Easter!

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

The March study will continue to study the book of 2nd Thessalonians. Pastor Nirmala is leading.

## MEN'S MORNING GROUP

Men's Bible Study is Saturday, March 2, at 9am at Otto's Bakery. We will focus on why Good Friday is good. Come ready with questions and be ready for a conversation about this holy day.

**MISSION TRIP - 2024** - St. Louis, MO from June 15-21. CLC has booked 13 youth and 2 adult leader spots. All spots are filled! **Final payment of \$100 is 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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Biblecampedcom.pdf)

## SUNDAY MORNING VIDEO & DISCUSSION IN THE CHAPEL - MARCH

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 Chapel from 9:20-9:45. 3/3: Flame (love); 3/10: Store (handling emotions); 3/17: Trees (finding meaning in life)

## 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 with treats following the trip on Sunday, June 23.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

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

## 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.



Come as a group or as an individual to enjoy an evening of food, fun and puzzling. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DABAE2BA7FB6-christ>

## 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.

# YOUTH/OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

**SENIOR SUNDAY** - High School senior recognition Sunday will be held on May 19th. 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. Families will be sent letters with details on submitting your bio and participating in the service. Scholarships will be presented.

**Scholarship Opportunities** - Scholarship applications can be found on the kiosk and are due in to the church office by Sunday, April 28. Please submit scholarships individually in sealed envelopes marked with the scholarship's name.

**YOUTH COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP** - will award a \$300 scholarship to a High School Senior. The scholarship is presented on Senior Sunday.

**BRENDA HALLAWAY SCHOLARSHIP** - will award \$200 to assist any person entering or continuing in an education program, to enhance their skills.

**GEORGE JAMSA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** - will award \$250 to a student who has contributed to the music ministry at CLC and who plans to incorporate music education while continuing studies beyond high school.

**SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY** - Thank you for your donations. We raised \$156.50.

## 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.fprochesterminn.org/feed-a-family>

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - March is one of the months of a year that CLC delivers meals to neighbors in Byron. The time frame involved is 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays. Please contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 if interested.

**JOY GROUP** - The Joy Group will meet on March 12 at 10:30am. Hostesses are Sandy Erickson and June Hart. Hope to see all in the fellowship hall at Church.

**CARD MAKING** Card making group will meet on Saturday, Mar 16 from 9-1. New crafters always welcomed!

**QUILTING/SEWING GROUP** - The Sewing/Quilting group will meet Sat, Mar 10 from 9 - noon. Contact is Chris Polzin 507-269-7579 or [mpolzin@frontiernet.net](mailto:mpolzin@frontiernet.net)

**SALVATION ARMY FOOD COLLECTION** - Food is collected in the blue barrel by the front door.

**BOOK CLUB** Our next book club meeting will be Tuesday, Mar 5th at 6pm at church. We will be discussing "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine," by Gail Honeyman. Feel free to join us if you are interested!

**MOVIE TIME** Please join us in the CLC theater for a family friendly movie on April 6 at 7pm. Movie title will be posted on the kiosk, church bulletin boards, and on the movie room door. Popcorn will be provided, but bring your own beverage. Contact JoAnn Brooks with questions.

Recently seen around CLC...



## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE ABUSE FAMILY DISCUSSION NIGHT

Our 7th and 8th grade confirmands had a night of learning alongside their parents on January 10. The evening started with a confirmation family dinner where the confirmands served soup and grilled cheese sandwiches to their families. This dinner was also to prep our confirmands for serving lent suppers. Dinner then led to a presentation on mental health awareness and substance use abuse prevention, led by 7th grade mentor Matt Petersen. The evening concluded with time for small group discussions. Within the parent small group, two local resources were shared that would be great resources for all:

Olmsted County CredibleMind: A free online platform that brings expert-rated wellbeing resources along with Olmsted County local community resources together into one easy to use tool.

The Social Health Initiative (SHI) Podcast: Created by Byron High School student Anna Brennan. Anna is also the older sister to 7th grade confirmation student, Eva.

Thank you Matt for your great night of learning!

## LENTEN SEASON/EASTER

**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS** The soup suppers will continue weekly on Wednesdays through March 20 from 5-6pm. The soup suppers are a free will offering supporting the mission trip and bible camp scholarships.



Below is the schedule for the Lenten Soup Suppers:

**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**

Julie Carlblom, Worship & Music Committee

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

**LENT 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 we will learning about the stories of people who stood strong in their faith in spite of the persecution they faced. All evening services start at 6:30pm.

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 Ramsay for writing the drama scripts.

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

**EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS** - To beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, the altar committee will be ordering lilies and mums from Houston Greenhouse. Order forms will be on the table by the office, soon.



**EASTER BAND** - Please contact Terry Bird (507-269-6106) if you're interested in playing in the Easter Band. All ages are welcome! The music is not difficult. We will be practicing soon.

### CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 2/22/2024

The CLC Council meeting was held on February 22nd, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Ashley Ebenhoh, Pastor Steve, Joe Biewer, Tim Anderson, Carol Smith, Joan Skare, Mark Turany, Randy Holz, Tom Tweite, Josh Dickison, and Luke Brown. Members not present: Dave Schlobohm, Allie Petersen.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Joan and Luke Second. Motion PASSED.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Tom and Ashley second. Motion PASSED.

Joe presented the January Treasurer's report:

Income \$27,374. Expenses \$24,659. YTD +\$2,715.

**Pastor Lesson:** Pastor announced he has set a retirement date of June 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Heartfelt Congratulations along with discussion and questions followed.

#### Information/Discussion

Randy gave an update on the raffle for 2024

A council contact list was established and will be sent out.

Soup supper for council is Feb 28th and volunteers established.

A synod report was given by Tom.

Next month we will discuss: Committee assignments and devotion lead schedule

Barb Streed from our Synod was invited by Exec to talk to the council involving Pastors Retirement:

Barb spoke to the council about the process and procedures following Pastors announcement.

Council members asked many great questions.

One of Barbs recommendations was to interview a qualified Interim Pastor for when Pastor Steve is Retired in June.

Pastor Barb and the Synod will continue to guide and support our congregation.

#### Action Items

Randy made a motion to move forward with an Interim Pastor interview to be prepared for the June date.

Joan second the motion. Motion PASSED

A time to interview will be established and notify all Council members.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe, second by Luke.

Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 19th 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Randy Holz, Council Secretary

# STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

## SEMN SYNOD CALL PROCESS

- Phase One: The Transition Process
- Phase Two: The Self-Study Process
- Phase Three: The Interview Process for Call Committees/Councils
- Phase Four: Welcoming Your New Pastor

<https://semnsynod.org/resources-for-congregations-and-leaders/call-process>

### Phase One: The Leave-taking - The Transition time

After the pastor announces they are resigning their call, a representative from the Office of the Bishop will meet with the congregational council to orient them to the call process (occurred Feb 22). At this time, information about the interim pastor is shared with the council so they can make the best decision about how the congregation and ministries will be cared for.... It is also the time to celebrate the ministry that

the pastor and the congregation have shared and the council forms and appoints the call committee.

Pastor Nirmala's call is not presently affected by Pastor Steve's retirement.

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Tickets/bracelets will continue to be available 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.

**THANK-YOU** to Jerry Rieser for making the crosses on the fellowship hall tables.

## 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.

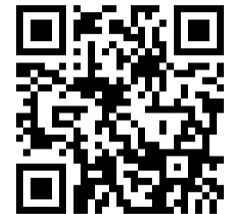
## ONLINE GIVING - We have 2 options for e-giving.

Venmo



Vanco

[www.clcbyron.org/giving/](http://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 \$535 in January 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

**March 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 March if your last name starts with E-I. 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.

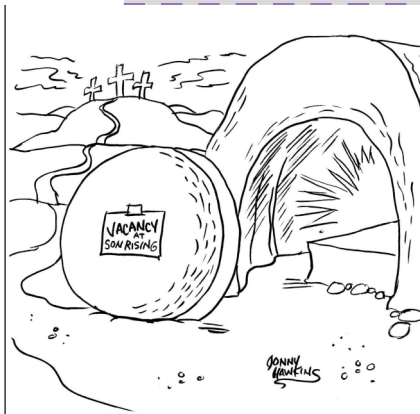
**2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION** - Please register for communion once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration tables.

**2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY** - Saturday, May 11 in Mankato, MN at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center. Contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in attending.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Ginger Knight, Sharon Johnson, Millie Broin, Ruth Brooks, Greg Holmseth, Charlie Finley, Linda Bausman, Darell Carlblom, Al Hovey, and Becky Dathe.

## 2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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



## ATTENDANCE

Dec 2023 Avg	295
Dec 2022 Avg	239
Jan 2024 Avg	185
Jan 2023 Avg	151
2/4/2024	242
2/11/2024	183
2/18/2024	142
2/25/2024	182
Feb 2024 Avg	187
Feb 2023 Avg	166