



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - PASTOR SUSAN

Dear Members and Friends,

"Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Joel 2:13b

Welcome to the season of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, renewal and recommitment. Lent is a time to draw closer to God with humility and gratitude, remembering what Jesus has done for us through His cross and resurrection. In Christ, we receive what we long for: forgiveness, acceptance, and new life.

Lent is a time of Christian devotion. Many Christians draw nearer to God in Lenten practices of prayer, worship, acts of service, and studying God's Word. Our mid-week worship and meal on Wednesday evenings are a wonderful way to be nourished in faith and renewed in spirit. The beloved words and music of Holden Evening Prayer have a way of echoing in our hearts and minds throughout the week.

Our theme this year is "Open wide your hearts", a phrase

from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, 6:13. He urges us, as faithful disciples, to open ourselves to God and to one another so that we may live fully into the grace and hope Christ offers. Each week, we will explore how God moves and changes our hearts by faith, to live out our callings, and discover His grace manifested in ways we did not expect.

On Wednesday evenings, we will be "diving in" to the story of Jonah, a "whale of a tale." We will reflect on how God calls us for a particular purpose, and is determined to bless us, and bless others through us, even when we are not fully "on board." God is patient and persistent in drawing us to Himself, so that we may receive the fullness of life we were created for. Come early to enjoy the fellowship of sharing a soup supper beforehand. We will be serving food for both body and soul.

May you find renewal, refreshment and hope in this Lenten season, as we open wide our hearts to God's abundant grace. May we, in turn, extend that grace to one another.

God's peace be with you, Pastor Susan

LENTEN SERVICE SERIES - JONAH

Ash Wednesday, March 5 Psalm 51, Joel 2, Matthew 6

Wed, Mar 12 Jonah Ch1, v1-3 God Calls, Jonah Runs Away

Wed, Mar 19 Jonah Ch1, v4-17 God Does Not Give Up On Jonah

Wed, Mar 26 Jonah Ch2 You Can Run but You Can't Hide

Wed, Apr 2 God Saves Jonah and Ninevah with Persistent and Patient Love

Wed, Apr 9 Jonah Complains, God Sustains

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES - MARCH

Sunday, March 9 - Jesus is tempted, and so are we.

Sunday, March 16 - Nothing will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

Sunday, March 23 - We have hope in the face of suffering.

Sunday, March 30 - The Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father

Sunday, April 6 - Mary anoints Jesus in anticipation of his burial



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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MARCH

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 March will be:

3/2 - The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28-36

3/9 - Tempted - Luke 4:1-13

3/16 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

3/23 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

3/30 - The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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 Coordinator

YOUTH GROUP

We will be having our weekly Wednesday meetings from 7-8pm in the church youth room. Hope to see you all. Kim Postier, Youth Group Coordinator

MISSION TRIP - KANSAS CITY, MO

June 22-27, 2025 - The spots are filled, and we added an additional vehicle. 20 kids are registered, but could add a couple more if interest is there.

Registration forms are on the kiosk. Total trip cost to families is \$375 (total per student cost is about \$650).

Payment 3 is due Mar 15, \$100. Scholarships are available, speak with Pastor Susan privately.

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.

VBS - July 28-31 from 6-8pm. More info to come.

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

- Registration forms are on the kiosk, or on our website. CLC pays 60%, up to \$225 of the registration fees at Good Earth Village. For other Christian Bible Camps we will pay 50%, up to \$225 or 1/2 of the camp cost, whichever is less. Area camps to consider are Good Earth Village, Camp Victory, and Camp Omega. www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Biblecampedcom.pdf

PALM SUNDAY FRENCH TOAST

BREAKFAST April 13, 7:30 - 11:30 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.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Please join our pastor led Bible Study at 10am.

MISSION TRIP SHARES - Forms can be found on the kiosk soon. Shares are \$25 each and help cover youth and chaperone expenses on the mission trip. There will be a presentation following the trip with treats and a video, for shareholders.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - MARCH

Confirmation students recently cleaned and organized the church library. Thank you to Jane Cabaya who put her library organization skills to use and help guide us. Please stop by and borrow and a book (or two)!

March 5 kicks off a change in the confirmation schedule where students host the Lent season soup suppers. Parents/Guardians - please see your confirmation Lent email for more details on arrival time and volunteer requests.

Mark your calendars: Confirmation Sunday is April 27. Thanks! Tina, Confirmation Coordinator

SENIOR SUNDAY - High School senior recognition Sunday will be May 4th. 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 will be on the kiosk soon and are due in to the church office by Sunday, April 13. Please submit scholarships individually in sealed envelopes marked with the scholarship's name. Three scholarship options for our seniors include the Youth Committee Scholarship, Hallaway Memorial Scholarship, and Jamsa Memorial Scholarship.

SILENT AUCTION Time to get creative! The Annual Silent Auction will be held April 13 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 Apr 12 from 9-11am. Profits sponsor CLC youth at Bible Camps and Mission Trips.

COUNCIL

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 2/18/25, 6:30PM

Call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Joe Biewer, Randy Holz, Jason Pfeilsticker, LuRaye Eischens, Carol Smith, Linda Danielski, Tim Anderson, Ashley Ebenhoh, Luke Brown, Tom Tweite, and Pastor Susan. *Members absent:* Cece Meek and DrewAnne Oestreich

Joys and Concerns

Devotions: By Joe Biewer

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Randy to append the agenda and have Tom VanHeuklom from the Building and Grounds Committee present first. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tom VanHeuklom from the Building and Grounds Committee talked about snowplowing the parking lot. The snow removal company contractor is seeking to raise the prices mid-season. Tom is addressing this with guidance from the executive committee.

Approval of January minutes: Motion made by Linda and seconded by Tom. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Jason presented the Treasurer report. January income/expenses -\$3880.04, YTD -\$3880.04.

Discussion held on attendance, giving, etc. In 2024 there were 236 giving family units. We talked about possibly adding the QR code for giving to the online streaming. We will see if that would be doable.

Pastor Lesson: Pastor Susan led a discussion on serving others and how we learn from it and how it can affect us.

Information/Discussion

New members were welcomed—Linda, Jason, LuRaye, Drewanne, and Cece.

Volunteers for devotions for the year are as follows:

March—Randy; April—Tim; May—Carol; June—Ashley; July—Jason; August—Linda; September—LuRaye; October—Luke; November—Tom; December—Drew; January—Cece

Committee Assignments:

Altar—Ashley; Buildings & Grounds—LuRaye; Education—Linda; Connections/Evangelism—Carol; Memorial—Jason; Stewardship—Joe & Randy; Worship & Music—Tim; Youth—Luke; Endowment—Jason; Personnel—Tom, Randy, Joe, & Tim; Synod Representative—Tom; Call Committee—Jason & Tom

Of note, LuRaye is taking Building & Grounds (in place of Jason) instead of Worship & Music.

Soup Suppers on March 19. Soup and bars should be at the church by 4:00 p.m.

Soup: Carol-2, Linda-2, Tim, Joe, Luke

Bars: Tom-2, Ashley-2, Jason, Carol, Randy

The Ministry Site Profile is complete and has been uploaded. Jason and Tom gave a brief update from the Call Committee that a mock practice interview was held.

The "Council as Leaders" synod seminar will be held on March 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna.

Pastor Susan encouraged any and all to attend. Pastor Susan, Tom, and Carol will be attending and possibly a few others. The deadline to register is February 26.

Joe led a discussion on having a council retreat possibly in April or May.

Action Items:

Motion to adjourn: Made by Ashley and seconded by Tim. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be March 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

"COUNCIL AS LEADERS" PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE SE MN SYNOD

You are invited to take part in the SE Minnesota Synod's annual "Councils as Leaders" program. Large group speakers and workshops are designed to inform and inspire congregational leaders as they plan, develop and carry out the ministries of the church.

Who: Council members, church staff, lay leaders, pastors, and interested members

When: Saturday, March 8 from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN

Cost: \$15 per person; CLC will cover this cost

Large group speakers and small group workshops will be offered on a variety of topics, including Discerning Vocation in the Congregation, Congregational Money Matters, Updating Constitutions and ByLaws, and Making Meetings Meaningful. The keynote speaker is Rev. Emily Carson. Bishop Regina Hasannally will speak. Lunch is included. The day concludes with worship.

Contact Elaine or Pastor Susan in the church office if you would like to attend. Deadline to register is February 26.

CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

BOOK CLUB - Book Club will meet Tue, March 4 at 6pm at CLC. We will discuss the book "I Capture the Castle" by Dodie Smith. If you have questions, contact Ruth at Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie at kjn0312@gmail.com. At that meeting, our next book "Stella Bain" by Anita Shreve, will be distributed. Please join us!

MOVIE TIME - Please join us on Saturday, March 8 at 6pm for a family friendly movie in our movie theater! We have a new screen and sound system. Movie titles will be posted on the kiosk. Popcorn will be provided, but bring your own beverage. All are welcome!

CARD MAKING - All crafty ladies, gentlemen too, looking for a fun activity. Join us in making cards for others. We meet the 3rd Saturday of the month, March 15, at church from 9 am-12 pm. Contact Kari Prigge for info.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Christ Lutheran members are delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of March. If you are interested in volunteering, call Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321.

JOY CLUB - Joy Club meets March 11 at 10:30am, in the room next to the kitchen. Hostesses are June Hart and Sandy Erickson. I will need help during the meeting, we are sponsoring a meeting with other clergy from this district and using the fellowship hall as well as the Sanctuary. Sandy Erickson

BYRON FOOD SHELF

It is located in the DACS building at 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Operating hours are: Mondays 10-11am, Wednesdays 9-11am and 12-2pm, and Thursdays 12-2pm. Request an appointment if you are unable to shop during drop in hours. 507-775-2336. CLC now sends our blue barrel collections to the Byron food shelf.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - MARCH

Fellowship time between the two services needs cookies or bars. If your last name starts with I - L, please provide a batch of cookies or bars. Drop off the treats at CLC kitchen before the 8am service.

Volunteers who are scheduled to help clean-up after fellowship time on Sundays, please see the schedule posted on the board in the kitchen. Please contact Sandy Erickson, if you are not available on the date you are scheduled, for help finding a substitute.

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP

The Quilting group will meet Sat, March 8, from 9-12pm. Contact Chris Polzin with questions at 507-269-7579 or mpolzin@frontiernet.net

SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

We raised \$268 for Channel One Food Shelf and had bags and bags of food donated. Thanks CLC Members for your generosity!



PIZZA & PUZZLING CONTEST

Please join us for our annual puzzle contest on Friday, April 4th. We will start the evening with pizza at 5:30 with puzzles starting around 6pm.



Recently seen around CLC...



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP/LENT DETAILS

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays through April 9. The soup suppers are a free will offering.

These groups will prepare our Soup Suppers:

March 5	Worship/Music + Musicians
March 12	Education & Altar Committees
March 19	Church Council
March 26	Memorial & Building/Grounds
April 2	Evangelism
April 9	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 Julie Carlbom know. We have a list of volunteers who have offered to help.

Please assign members of your group to bring:

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 4PM. (If your soup is cold, bring by noon; if hot, by 4PM.)

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

Please contact me with any questions.

Julie Carlbom, Worship & Music Committee

Cell: 507-250-1302 Email: jcarlbom@kmtel.com

LENT OFFERINGS - from the five Wednesday night Lenten services will be sent to Channel One unless it is placed in your Sunday offering envelope.

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, in March

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.

2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY - Saturday, May 30-31 in Mankato, MN at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center. Contact Pastor Susan if you are interested in attending.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT: "OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS" 2 CORINTHIANS 6:13

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service, March 5 at 6:30pm, including the imposition of ashes. It is a time of reflection and acts of devotion to God. You might (1) pray for situations in the news, including peace among nations (2) volunteer at church in a new way (3) call someone you know who could benefit from a friendly and encouraging word. What other ways might we share God's love in daily life during Lent this year?

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.

TIME & TALENTS (Volunteer Opportunities) can be left in the offering plates or update online at www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/ Please share your talents as we serve God together.

WORSHIP AT CLC

- In-church worship at 8am, traditional style and 10am contemporary style
- Communion offered 1st and 3rd weeks of the month at both services.
- Live Streamed services: <https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranchurchbyronm10/streams>

DONATIONS AND THANK-YOU - Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. Donation options include 1) mailing a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) drop off a donation during church services or office hours.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS



Venmo

Vanco



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 \$17 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 2025



Worship Times

8am Traditional Worship
 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 Susan 507-254-9875 or clcpastorsusan@gmail.com
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or peacejudy@hotmail.com
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or jbiewer@hotmail.com

WEATHER AND WORSHIP If there is heavy snowfall/wind or ice, please check KTTC, CLC Facebook page, or watch for an email from CLC for worship service announcements. It is possible that the first service could be cancelled and not Sunday School or the 2nd service.



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATIONS

At age 70 1/2 and older, individuals may distribute tax-free up to \$100,000 annually 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 reduces gross income for the calculation determining the amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxable.

2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Sue Hoenk, Aaron Stolp, Jim Larson, and Aubrey Dinges.

FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER TIME - On the first Sunday of each month, a pastor will be available for individual prayer and anointing (optional) at the altar railing, following worship. Prayers could include physical or emotional healing for yourself or loved ones. Requests at the railing are kept confidential.



ATTENDANCE

Dec 2024 Avg	230
Dec 2023 Avg	246
Jan 2025 Avg	139
Jan 2024 Avg	180
2/2/25	151
2/9/25	149
2/16/25	103
2/23/25	120
Feb 2025 Avg	131
Feb 2024 Avg	187