



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - AUGUST

1 Thessalonians 5:11-18

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Greetings Christ Lutheran!

Writing a "first" newsletter article feels a little funny after all the ways I've already introduced myself—through worship, Facebook videos, and hallway conversations (often involving candy, coffee, or treats). But I suppose it's fitting. Firsts are part of new beginnings, and I'm still in the middle of many of those with you.

Over the past few days, I've been wearing one of those silicone bracelets we've been giving out with parking lot raffle tickets. (And if you haven't bought yours yet—consider this your nudge!) The bracelet is a small thing, but it carries a big verse:

"Encourage one another and build each other up." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

That verse has been sticking with me. And not just because it's on my wrist, but because I've already seen it in action. You've encouraged me. You've welcomed me with warmth, shared your stories, made me feel at home. I've seen you encourage and build each other up in small ways, too. The work of volunteers behind the scenes, the way people linger to talk after worship, and the way you show up for each other.

This is the kind of community I'm excited to be a part of: one that builds not just buildings or parking lots (but those are important and necessary as well!), but people, faith, relationships, and hope. A church is a building where people of faith gather, but more importantly, church is the people. People who show up for one another, pray for one another, serve together, and grow together. Church is the community where we remind each other of God's promises, carry one another's burdens, and celebrate the joys along the way. It's not just where we go on Sunday. It's who we are every day, built up in Christ and sent to encourage the world.

I look forward to more conversations, shared coffee, new ministries, joy and laughter, and quiet moments where we build each other up in Christ's name.

God's peace and blessings as we begin this journey together,

Pastor Jeremy

Jeremy Johnson

Senior Pastor

pastorjeremy@clcb Byron.org



Judy Thompson-Reitz

Interim Part Time Pastor

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR AUGUST

Teachers are needed for the upcoming Sunday school year! 3-4 teachers for each class would decrease the commitment to 1-2 Sunday per month for each teacher. No experience is required! It is a fun and rewarding way to learn about the greatness of God alongside the kids. Also, the registration fees will be waived for any kids whose parents teach! Please let Francine Kovash know if you are interested! (507) 951-2234 or fkovash@hotmail.com

Rally Sunday for the start of Sunday school will be September 7th at 9:05 am. We will meet in the sanctuary for a short informational meeting and then have a fun carnival to celebrate the start of the year! Sunday school will run from September 7th through May 17th and follows the Byron school calendar. 3 year olds through 6th graders are welcome. Sunday school is from 9:05-9:50 and children 3 years old through 2nd grade are expected to be dropped off and picked up in the classroom with a parent/guardian. Registration forms and class schedules will be in the entry.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - AUGUST

2025 Confirmation pictures are ready for pick up. They are located on the table outside of the office. Holly Alsleben is the coordinator for this year. We need first year mentors. Please contact the office or Holly if you are interested in being a mentor. The mandatory retreat at Eagle Bluff is on Sept 6.

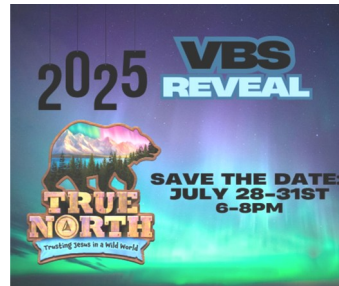
2025-2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Registration for Sunday School and Confirmation will be available this summer. Watch for more details in the weekly emails. **Mandatory Confirmation Retreat is Saturday, September 6 at Eagle Bluff.**

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

[Confirmation Registration Link](#)

[Link to Confirmation Retreat Medical Release](#)



Registration Link:
www.myvbs.org/CLCVBS25/

Bring your friends and neighbors! Volunteers are needed.

YOUTH GROUP

Dates to remember this summer: July 30 - Johnson house 7pm; Aug 20 - Heinz house movie night 7pm; all other Wednesdays we will meet at CLC, outside, around the fire pit.

Please contact Kim P or sign up on the calendar outside the youth room at church if you can volunteer (Youth Parent/Guardian) on a Wednesday during the summer months to be a leader for the night. You could be at your house when you host, or host at church. If you have questions or want to connect with this group, contact Kim Postier, Youth Group Leader

KWIK TRIP CAR WASHES

The Youth Committee is selling Kwik Trip Car Washes to support the mission trip and Bible Camp Scholarships. Cost is \$40/5 washes. The Youth earn \$20/card. Cards will be sold between services by the mission trip kids on the first Sunday of every month, or in the office.

RALLY SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 7

Please join us for a Carnival to kick off Sunday School and a **Blessing of the Backpacks!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NEEDED!

Consider teaching! We hope to get 3-4 teachers per grade so the time commitment is less. Contact Francine Kovash for more info: fkovash@hotmail.com



CHURCH EVENTS

THANK - YOU SHAREHOLDERS!

The Shareholder Fundraiser raised \$1,000!!! The Youth Committee would like to thank our very generous shareholders! Donuts, muffins, bananas, and coffee/juice were enjoyed by all at the Event.



Many fun and some inspirational stories were shared and an entertaining video made by one of our kids. Thanks all for sharing! Thanks to the leaders for taking the kids on this memorable experience.

PASTOR JEREMY'S INSTALLATION, POTLUCK AND RAFFLE DRAWING

It's all happening on July 27!!! Please join us!

9am Traditional Worship & Pastor Jeremy's Installation

10:30am Raffle Drawing

11:30am Potluck

(meat, beverages, plates, ice cream provided, bring a dish to pass) sign-up sheet is on the kiosk or call the office to report number attending

MISSION TRIP 2026 - Watch the September newsletter for information on the 2026 mission trip!

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP - Calling all musicians and wanna-be musicians! It's time to join your friends and make a joyful noise! The choir invites youth and adults of all musical abilities to sing God's praise with us. Practices are typically every other Wednesday at 6:30, and our normal schedule has us singing for the traditional service every 4 weeks. The commitment is small and the rewards are many. Come join the choir family and reap the benefits of praising God in song. Contact Julie Carlblom

SEWING DRESSES FOR AFRICA

August 1, 9am - noon - Please join us as we continue to sew more dresses to send to Africa. We made 10 dresses in our first session. Bring your sewing machine if you have one! If anyone has seam binding or fabric they'd like to donate we would welcome that. Everyone is welcome to join us, young and old. **You do not have to sew to help out, we can find something for everyone to do.** We will also be having some evening sessions for those that can not attend during the day, date not yet determined.

JUBELLANCE - Bells will be starting up in September! Contact Jane Cabaya if you are interested in joining our fun group! We play once a month at the 8am service.

BREW CREW -

Weekly Bible Study returns on Tuesday, August 5 at 10am

Weekly Bible Study will start up again in August, but we need a cool name for our Bible Study (doesn't everything?). Bible Study from henceforth shall be known as the **Brew Crew**. So, whether you like sipping coffee or tea—or are just there for the cookies and goodies (Pastor needs his chocolate!)—you're invited to join the **Brew Crew**, our weekly Bible study gathering.



In August begin with "**Stories of Faith**"—reading inspiring stories of faith from the Bible and reflecting on our own faith journeys along the way. Come for the conversation, the community, and a little spiritual encouragement to start your day.

We'll also take time to shape our fall series together with your ideas, input, and discussion. It's a great time to jump in—whether you're a regular or just curious to give it a try!

CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

BOOK CLUB - The Book Club is ready to start up again in September! Our first book is "The Woman They Could Not Silence". Copies will be available in the church office the weekend of August 2/3rd. Book club members can pick one up and sign your name on the sheet. Warning...the book is a long one so grab it as soon as you can.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6pm at church to discuss the book. If anyone is interested in joining book club, you're welcome to join us! If you have questions, contact Ruth at Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie at kjn0312@gmail.com

CARD MAKING - We will not meet in August! Contact is Kari Prigge.

MEALS ON WHEELS - CLC volunteers deliver meals during September. 20 is the average number of neighbors who receive meals. **Another retired couple from CLC is needed to help with delivering meals.** Contact Sandy Erickson if you are interested.

JOY CLUB - We meet Tuesday, August 12 in the fellowship hall. New members are invited to join us! Contact Sandy Erickson or any current member if you are interested in joining. Lots of fun is had by all. Hope to see you in August!

BYRON FOOD SHELF - located at DACS building, 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Hours are: Mon 10-11am, Wed 9-11am, Thur 12-2pm, and 1st Fri of month 6-8pm. Request an appointment for other times, 507-775-2336. CLC's food collections go to the Byron food shelf.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - AUGUST

Fellowship time at CLC is at 10am during the summer. Members last names starting with Q - T are asked to donate a batch of treats during August. Deliver the treats by 9am on Sunday or any day the church is open. 4-5 dozen treats are needed weekly.

KITCHEN HELPERS - A fall schedule of helpers will be distributed in August. Contact Sandy Erickson if you would like to get on the schedule.

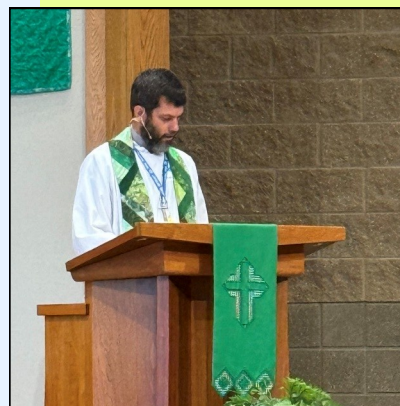
QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - We will not meet in August, but start up again Sat, Sept 13. Contact Chris Polzin at mpolzin@frontiernet.net or 507-269-7579

PUZZLE EXCHANGE!

Do you have a puzzle to share, or need a new puzzle to try? Check out our CLC library for a new puzzle. If you have a puzzle to donate, leave it by the puzzles in the library or in the office.

Volunteers sewed dresses to send to Africa!

Recently seen around CLC...



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 17, 2025

The Christ Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Joe Biewer.

Members present: Tim Anderson, Joe Biewer, Luke Brown, Linda Danielski, Ashley Ebenhoh, LuRaye Eischens, Randy Holz, Cece Meek, DrewAnne Oestreich, Jason Pfeilsticker, Carol Smith, Tom Tweite, Pr Susan Li, Pr Judy Thompson-Reitz, and Pr Jeremy Johnson.

Members absent: None

Joys and Concerns

Introductions: We each gave a brief introduction of ourselves to Pr Jeremy Johnson and he did as well.

Devotions: By Ashley Ebenhoh

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by L Brown. R Holz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of May minutes: Motion made by L Danielski to approve the May minutes. T Tweite seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: J Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. May income \$21,130.43; May Expenses \$26,495.40; May difference -\$5,364.97; YTD Difference - \$4,220.81.

Information/Discussion Items:

Pastor Lesson: Pr Susan gave a lesson about the end of the transition year at Christ Lutheran and how we should all pause and reflect on the past and what we learned during this time of change. This relates to Ecclesiastes 3:1 which states "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven"...

J Biewer reminded us of the garage sale at CLC which will take place on July 25-26. J Brooks is chairing this event. Set up and drop off will be July 22-23 after 5:00 pm.

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.

WORSHIP AT CLC - SUMMER SCHEDULE

- In-church worship at 9am, traditional and contemporary style alternating
- 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 your offering to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) drop off your offering during church services or office hours.

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 \$863 in April in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Proceeds will go to the parking lot fund.

R Holz updated us on the raffle ticket sales for the parking lot fund. 600 tickets have been checked out and the total income from those tickets, if all are sold, will be \$6000. Ticket sales are due Jul 6 and the drawing is Jul 27.

T Tweite and J Brooks attended the ELCA Synod Assembly. Tom reported on the highlights. The website for the entire assembly report is: semnsynod.org/assembly Pr Susan's last Sunday will be June 22. There will be a special litany during worship and a farewell reception.

We discussed the "Congregation Exit Interview with Interim Pastor" form. Pr Susan reflected on her time spent at Christ Lutheran and the council shared their thoughts.

Pr Jeremy Johnson will start on July 1. His first service will be July 6. His installation date will be July 27, with Pastor Barb Streed, assistant to the Bishop, in attendance. There will be a welcome reception after the service.

The service on Sunday, June 29 will be led by Pr Judy. J Biewer will thank the call comm. during that service.

Action Items:

Christopher and Taylor Hill were received into membership of Christ Lutheran Church by affirmation of faith. Motion was made by J Pfeilsticker and seconded by L Brown to approve this. Motion passed.

Motion was made by R Holz to change the name on the CLC debit card to Pastor Jeremy Johnson and remove J Biewer, effective July 1. L Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by T Tweite to adjourn the meeting. J Pfeilsticker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be July 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

PAVE THE PARKING LOT - RAFFLE 2025

Drawing July 27, 10:30am

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS



Venmo

Vanco



Christ Lutheran Church
 201 Frontage Road NW
 Byron, MN 55920 www.clcbyron.org
 Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Mon - Wed
 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

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

August 2025



Worship Times

9am Worship - Traditional &
 Contemporary Alternating
 LiveStream Worship

Communion is the 1st and 3rd Sundays



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastors can be reached by office phone 775-6646 or
 Pastor Jeremy 507-481-4394 or pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or peacejudy@hotmail.com
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or jbiewer@hotmail.com

2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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



Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Susan!



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Ed Korbel and the family and friends of Sue Hoenk.

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

May 2025 Avg	150
May 2024 Avg	166
6/1/25	142
6/8/25	98
6/15/25	105
6/22/25	142
6/29/25	143
June 2025 Avg	126
June 2024 Avg	142
7/6/25	199
7/13/25	123
7/20/25	152