



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE - SEPTEMBER

Philippians 4:4-9 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

Dear friends in Christ,

September is here, and that means the "start-up" season at church! Sunday School is beginning, Confirmation is kicking off, youth group is gearing up, Bible studies are forming, and the calendar is filling. I don't know about you, but I feel a little like a kid waiting for the first day of school. I'm sitting on the edge of my seat with excitement.

Of course, for me, there's an extra layer of joy this year. I only began as your pastor in July, and now I get to experience my very first "program year" with you. Everything feels new. There are new schedules, new opportunities, new routines, and yes, even some new challenges. But even in the challenges, we can give thanks! But most of all, I see the newness of God's Spirit at work in this congregation, bringing energy and hope to what we do together.

Paul's words in Philippians remind us that joy and thankfulness aren't just feelings that come and go. Joy and thankfulness are practices that we can choose each day. When we pause to notice God's blessings, big or small, we train our hearts to rejoice more clearly and to give thanks more freely. And as we do, God promises that his peace will guard our hearts and minds.

I am so grateful and excited to be here with you, sharing in this adventure of faith. Together, let's celebrate the joy of learning, growing, and serving in Christ's name. See you in worship (and around the edges of my seat),

Blessings! Pastor Jeremy

## FALL TIME CHANGES

Sunday worship starting Sept 7:  
8am Traditional, 10am Contemporary

Office Hours starting Sept 1:  
Mon - Thurs 9am - 3pm



Jeremy Johnson

Senior Pastor

[pastorjeremy@clcb Byron.org](mailto:pastorjeremy@clcb Byron.org)



Judy Thompson-Reitz

Interim Part Time  
Pastor

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## EDUCATION/YOUTH

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - SEPTEMBER

This year we will continue to use Spark Lectionary curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The lessons will correspond to the Revised Common Lectionary that is used in worship service to connect kids with Bible stories heard in worship.

We still need more teachers for this year! We have at least one teacher for each grade already, but would love to have 3-4 teachers for each class to decrease the commitment on each teacher. As a "thank you" we are waiving the registration fee for children of parents who are teaching this year. Please let Francine Kovash know if you are interested in teaching or helping in the classrooms!

(507) 951-2234 or fkovash@hotmail.com

Sunday school will run from September 7th, 2025 through May 17th, 2026 and is for 3 year olds through 5th graders. New this year, 6th graders will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. Registration forms and class schedules will be in the entry. Class runs from 9:05 am to 9:50 am. Preschool through 2nd graders will need to be picked up and dropped off by parents/guardians.

Rally Sunday for the start of Sunday school will be September 7th at 9:05 am. Parents/guardians meet in the sanctuary with your children for a short meeting and then we will have a fun carnival to celebrate the start of the school year. Parents will stay with their child(ren) for the carnival and get to see the classroom and meet their teachers.

September Lessons

9/7 - Rally Sunday Carnival

9/14 - The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin - Luke 15:1-10

9/21 - Two Masters - Luke 16:1-13

9/28 - The Parable of the Rich Man - Luke 16:19-31

**3rd graders will receive their Bibles on 9/14 during the 8 am and 10 am services.**

Thanks!

Francine Kovash

### 2025-2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION LINKS

Please use the following links to register for Sunday School and Confirmation. **Mandatory Confirmation Retreat is Saturday, September 6 at Eagle Bluff.**

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

[Confirmation Registration Link](#)

[Link to Confirmation Retreat Medical Release](#)

### CONFIRMATION NEWS - SEPTEMBER

*Wednesday, Sept 3, 7pm* - Parent/student Confirmation orientation to kick off the Confirmation year

*Saturday, Sept 6, 7:45am* - meet at CLC to carpool to the Mandatory Confirmation retreat at Eagle Bluff

Confirmation Coordinator, Holly Alsleben

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS - SEPT 7

Please join us for a ***Blessing of the Backpacks*** during both services!

**6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Starting this fall, the pastors and Education Committee are transitioning 6th grade Sunday School to Wednesday evenings at 5:30PM, led by the pastors and mentors. This shift helps bridge the gap to our middle school ministry and prepares students for 7th and 8th grade Confirmation, all while building connections in a fun, faith-filled environment. The program will offer an engaging introduction to Confirmation through hands-on experiences with worship, prayer, service projects, Bible teachings, and more—helping students grow in faith and feel at home in the life of the church. Orientation is Wednesday, September 3 at 5:30pm for students and parents.

### YOUTH GROUP - Wednesdays at 7:00

This year our high school youth will dig into how the Bible can be a tool for growing faith and deepening commitment to God as they step into adulthood. We'll explore questions like: How did the Bible come to us in the form we have today? Who wrote it? When was it written? How is it structured? Most importantly, we'll discover the big story of God's people that runs through Scripture—and how that story connects to our own lives of faith. Each week will include time for learning together, plus plenty of time to hang out, play games, and enjoy our newly made-over youth room.





## 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 are sold between services on the first Sunday of every month, or in the office.

## MISSION TRIP 2026

Watch the Oct newsletter for information on the 2026 mission trip as a location has not yet been selected!

## THANK - YOUS

\* Thanks so much for all the 98th birthday cards. I enjoyed them all. I enjoyed the neat 98 poster card too. Thanks! Love & prayers, Stella Anderson

\* A big thanks to everyone that helped with the Rumage Sale. Total money raised for the parking lot fund was approximately \$7,000, which included a generous matching donation. I think every CLC member there would agree it was a little bit of everything. From family heirlooms, favorite shirts and cherished items finally let go of, people who said, "I've been looking for something like this!" or "My Grandma had one of these and I've always wanted one!" Those who saw the signs and stopped in were invited to come back and worship with us. Despite the heat and the sometimes back breaking work, we had a dance party and Wonder Woman and a Mermaid made an appearance. We worked and hummed to old time music, ABBA and lip synched to the EAGLES. Throughout the days we imagined how many family traditions, stories and memories were with each item. Goodwill, The Landing, Paws and Claws / Camp Companion, Jeremiah Program, Rochester Friends of the Library, Kasson Library and Spoons in Byron all benefited from our leftovers. I am very proud of my church family. JoAnn Brooks

## MEN'S GROUP

Men, mark your calendars! Pastor Jeremy will host a Men's Breakfast at Otto's Bakery on Thursday, September 25, at 10am. It's a great chance to enjoy some donuts, coffee, fellowship, and conversation together. Invite a friend or neighbor—everyone's welcome!

**FALL CLEAN UP** - Please join the Building and Grounds Committee on Saturday, October 18 from 9am - noon for the fall clean up. We will have inside and outside projects to complete. Contact Tom VanHeuklom for information. Please bring your rakes.



## BREW CREW - September

Weekly Bible Study is on Mondays at 10am. 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**.



In September we will continue 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.

**PUZZLE EXCHANGE** - Check out our CLC library for a new puzzle or to donate one.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KIT SUPPLIES

**NEEDED!** - The Confirmation students will be packing Personal Care Kits, School Kits, and Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief later this fall. You can help by donating items needed or give a cash donation and we will shop for you!

Items needed: bath towels, bar soap, toothbrushes, 70 sheet notebooks, 30 cm rulers, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, ballpoint pens, crayons, erasers, spools of neutral color thread, cotton or cotton-blend fabric in these sizes (2 1/4 yards of 60" wide, 3 yards of 44" wide, or 4 yards of 36" wide)

## FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD

Get to know your fellow CLC members! Anyone can sign up: singles, couples, and families! You will be placed with 2 to 3 other family units and each will host a gathering which could feature a meal, or snacks and a game night, one time during the year. Your commitment is to host once, and then simply enjoy the hospitality of the others in your group. The sign-up sheet is on the table by the office or contact the office directly. Groups will be formed in October.

**TRICK OR TREAT COSTUME PARTY** - Sunday, October 26th from 5:30pm - 7pm at CLC Kids will trick or treat from door to door inside the church, followed by snacks and music in the Fellowship Hall. Free event to our congregation and the community.

Look for a sign up sheet for families wishing to sponsor a door in early October. Families provide candy for the trick or treaters. Decorating your door and dressing up is optional, but encouraged.



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES - PAINTBALLING!

Sunday, Sept 28, 12:15pm, meet at CLC to carpool. Pastor Jeremy reserved a 1pm time slot to go paintballing at Run-N-Gun paintball near Zumbro Lake. Cost is approximately \$50/student. Please let Pastor Jeremy or the office know if you are interested in attending this event. Friends are welcome also! This is open to 9-12th grade students.



# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**BOOK CLUB** - The Book Club is ready to start up again in September! Our first book is "The Woman They Could Not Silence". Our first meeting will be Tues, Sept. 2 at 6pm at CLC. New members are welcomed! If you have questions, contact Ruth at Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie at kjn0312@gmail.com. Our next book will be distributed at the Sept meeting: "Where'd You Go, Bernadette" by Maria Semple

**CARD MAKING** - We will meet on Sat, September 20 from 9am-noon. All are welcome as we make cards for others! Contact is Kari Prigge.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - CLC volunteers deliver meals during September. **Another retired couple from CLC is needed to help with delivering meals.** Contact Sandy Erickson if you are interested.

**JOY CLUB** - Joy Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (Sept 9) at 10:30am in the fellowship hall. New members are welcomed!

**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 - SEPTEMBER

A copy of the volunteer schedule is posted in the kitchen. Additional helpers are needed, contact Sandy Erickson if interested. Treats for fellowship time are needed. If your last name starts with Q - T, please drop off the treats before 8am on Sundays. Home made are always welcome, but store bought are also appreciated.

**JUBELLANCE** - "Praising God with bells" - Sounds like a fun adventure for any age. If you aren't sure, we have lots of fun, help, and support from our group... JuBELLance practice starts Wed. Sept. 10th at 6pm. Please contact Jane Cabaya at 507-775-6183 or jcabaya25@gmail.com. We play once a month at the 8am service.

**CHANCEL CHOIR** - St. Augustine said "He who sings, prays twice". Come pray with us through choir. Contact Julie Carlblom or just come feel the unique joy of prayer through song every other Wednesday at 6:30 in the Chapel. Hope to see you there!

**QUILTING/SEWING GROUP** - The quilting group is now sewing dresses for Africa, in the fellowship hall. The goal is to make 150 dresses that will be delivered to Africa in February! *We will not meet on Saturday mornings for the next few months.*

We will meet as follows: **September** - Fridays, September 12 and 26 from 9-12; **October** - Fridays, October 10 and 24 from 9-12

Any changes in the schedule will be communicated in the weekly email. *All needed supplies will be provided: Pattern, fabric, bias tape, elastic and lace or trim as desired. Ironing board, iron, cutting mats and rotary cutters. You can bring your sewing machine if you would like to do some sewing.* You don't have to know how to sew as there is ironing fabric, cutting fabric from the provided pattern etc. Please join us as we continue to sew more dresses to meet our goal.

If anyone has boy shorts / t-shirts for the boys sizes 3T and up for the boys that could go to Africa along with the dresses for the girls.

**If you have any questions please contact one of the following:**

Deb Fugleberg: debfugleberg@gmail.com or 507-250-4099

Chris Polzin: mpolzin@frontiernet.net or 507-269-7579

**Donations needed for African Dresses:** If anyone has seam binding or fabric they'd like to donate we will take that.

Recently seen around CLC...





## STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

### CLC COUNCIL MEETING - JULY 15, 2025

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

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

Joys and Concerns - Devotions: By J Pfeilsticker

Approval of modified agenda: Motion made to approve the modified agenda by L Brown. T Tweite seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Treasurer Report: J Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. June income \$36,808; June Expenses \$26,501; June difference \$10,307; YTD Difference \$5,964.74.

#### Information/Discussion Items:

Pastor Lesson: Pastor Jeremy gave a lesson on "Offering as an Act of Worship". Giving should not be out of obligation but an act of joy.

Rummage Sale: J Biewer reminded us of the rummage sale at the church which will take place on July 25-26.

JoAnn Brooks is chairing this event. Set up and drop off will be July 22-23. Proceeds from this sale will go to the parking lot fund. Sign-up sheets to help are on the table in the narthex.

Raffle Ticket Sales: R Holz updated us on the raffle ticket

sales for the parking lot fund. 620 tickets have been checked out. The due date for the ticket sales is July 6 and the drawing will be on July 27 after church. So far there is \$11,000 in the parking lot fund and our goal is to raise \$60,000.

Good Neighbor Days Parade: J Biewer reported on our entry in the Good Neighbor Days parade. S Biewer is in charge of the float for the parade. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the float after the church service on 7/20.

Pastor Jeremy's installation will be July 27. The church council will run the potluck that day. The order of events that day are as follows: 9:00: Church service with installation; 10:30: Raffle drawing; 11:30: Potluck.

Staffing Needs: Discussion was held regarding the needs of CLC and moving forward now that Pastor Jeremy has started. Pastor Judy will continue to stay on staff while the congregation discerns the pastoral needs of the church.

#### Action Items:

Building Use: The Byron Women of Today would like to hold their district meeting and meal here at the church on October 11—using the fellowship hall and kitchen. Carol Smith made a motion that we agree to let them use our space, contingent on their agreement to complete an actual request form, sign an insurance waiver, and pay \$75 rental fee with a \$100 damage deposit. This deposit would be refunded if all conditions are met. J Pfeilsticker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Passing of the plate during church: The Stewardship Committee is recommending that we start passing the plate during the church service. L Brown made a motion to pass the plate. **Continued on p6**

**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.

### 2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

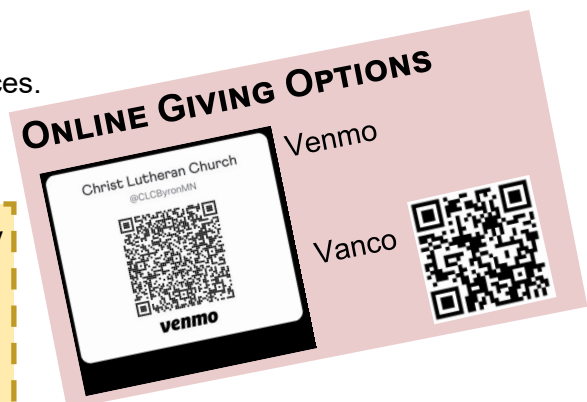
Register once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table.

### WORSHIP AT CLC

- Sunday worship at 8am traditional and 10am contemporary
- 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 \$25 in July in Thrivent Choice Dollars.



Christ Lutheran Church  
 201 Frontage Road NW  
 Byron, MN 55920      [www.clcbyron.org](http://www.clcbyron.org)  
 Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Mon - Thurs  
 507-775-6646      [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org)

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

**September 2025**



### Worship Times

8am Worship - Traditional

10am Worship - Contemporary

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](mailto:pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org)  
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or [peacejudy@hotmail.com](mailto:peacejudy@hotmail.com)  
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or [jbiewer@hotmail.com](mailto:jbiewer@hotmail.com)

### Continued from p5 (Council Mtg Minutes)

R Holz seconded the motion. After much discussion, R Holz amended the motion to start passing the plate on Sunday, Aug 31. T Tweite seconded the amended motion. Motion passed.

Supplies for the potluck: L Brown made a motion to purchase supplies (paper products, etc) for the potluck. A Ebenhoh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by T Tweite to adjourn the meeting. A Ebenhoh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Aug 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by L Eischens, council secretary

## GRANDPARENTS DAY

Sunday, September 7

Honoring  
 OUR  
 Grandparents



**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Ed Korbel, Leif Peterson, Jerry Hutchinson, and the shut-ins.

**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

June 2025 Avg	126
June 2024 Avg	142
July 2025 Avg	153
July 2024 Avg	115
8/3/25	156
8/10/25	96
8/17/25	107
8/24/25	132
8/31/25	no data
August 2025 Avg	
August 2024 Avg	121