



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - NOVEMBER

Dear Friends in Christ,

About 60 years after the Birth of Jesus, a great fire broke out in Rome. It burned for over a week. Rumors spread that the Emperor, Nero, had ordered the fire. He wanted to destroy the old city of Rome, rebuild a new one, and name it after himself. Nero did his utmost to stop the rumors, but they refused to die. Finally in desperation, he seized upon a scapegoat to blame.

Nero falsely accused the Christian community in Rome of starting the fire. Nero's false accusation touched off a religious persecution that lasted for nearly 300 years. One Roman historian describes the persecution in Nero's time this way: *'The Christians were treated with unusual brutality. Some were dressed in animal skins and torn apart by enraged dogs. Others faced lions, unarmed and alone. Others were put on crosses and, at night, they were burned as torches to light the darkness.'*

To protect themselves, and to be able to worship, many Christians literally went underground. They dug elaborate networks of tunnels in the soft volcanic subsoil of Rome. Some of these remarkable tunnels extended for miles and were designed like mazes to confuse the authorities. Today, some of these caves, called catacombs, are popular tourist sites in Rome. It was in these underground tunnels that Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper, baptized their young, and buried their dead. St. Jerome says in his writings that, as a boy, he and his friends used to play in the catacombs.

Today, centuries after St. Jerome, Roman children still play in the catacombs. One day a group was wandering through the maze of tunnels. Suddenly their only flashlight gave out. They were trapped in total darkness with no idea how to find the way out. They were on the verge of panic when one boy felt a smooth groove in the rock floor of the tunnel. It turned out to be a path that had been worn smooth by the feet of thousands of Christians who had walked the way before. The lost children followed in the footsteps of these saints of old and found their way out of the darkness into the sunlight of safety.

Throughout the Church, we celebrate All Saints Sunday on the first weekend in November each year. It is a day to remember, with thanksgiving and love, the lives of those who have gone before us to live in Christ forever. We remember and honor them and their lives among us and in God's world. Through them, we have come to learn so much about God's love, and grace, and forgiveness. Above all, we remember their trust and witness to the love of God, made known, in Jesus. Who could have ever imagined that God could love us so much? Though the Saints are gone from us, we do remember them. The Saints can still play a role in our lives. Like those lost children in the catacombs, by following in the footsteps of the saints, we too can find our way out of the darkness and confusion of our lives and our times as we are called into God's glorious Light.

As we receive God's great gift of Holy Communion, remember that in this meal we are joined to the saints of every time and place. *Pastor Judy's article continues on page 6...*



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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - NOVEMBER

If you are interested in volunteering to teach or help in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at fkovash@hotmail.com or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for November will be:

11/2 - Zacchaeus - Luke 19:1-10

11/9 - The Sadducees' Question - Luke 20:27-38

11/16 - God's Love is Forever - Luke 21:5-19

11/23 - The Day Jesus Died - Luke 23:33-43

11/30 - No Sunday School - Optional Christmas Program Singing Practice with Stephanie

We are starting preparations for our Christmas Program! Starting on 11/2 preschool through 5th graders will be practicing the Christmas Program songs during Sunday school singing time from 9:05- 9:20. Students in 4th-6th grade that would like to read a verse in the program on 12/7 will be given their verses to practice but will be able to read the verses from the podium during the program. There will also be a rehearsal on Saturday 12/6 (time TBD) to run through the program. Dress rehearsal will be during Sunday school on 12/7 with the program to follow during the 10 AM service.

Offering collected during Sunday school and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through April will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. May through August will go to the Byron Food Shelf. September through December will go to Real Hope for the Hungry.

Francine Kovash, Sunday School Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It is not too late to register for Sunday School!!

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

CONFIRMATION NEWS - NOVEMBER

Confirmation will have regular class on Nov 5 and 12. November 19 at 6:30pm the 6-8th

MISSION TRIP 2026

Duluth, MN - July 19-24, 2025

30 spots have been booked! A \$150 deposit is due by December 1 to secure your spot. Payment can be in the form of cash, check, or Venmo (please note: mission trip) Approximate total trip cost is about \$650/student, but we try to keep the family out of pocket cost at around \$400/student.

Link to register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeF-vkRfO--vfn6walriESSjN1Xfzlz67i961l-XW7UMMB3MA/viewform>

If you would like a scholarship, speak with Pastor Jeremy privately. Contact the office if you are interested in being a trip leader.

Information Meeting: Sunday, November 16, 9am in the Chapel

graders along with any interested Youth Group kids, will pack rice meals for Real Hope for the Hungry. No confirmation on Wed, Nov 26 for Thanksgiving break.

BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY

After a break in October, the Brew Crew will start up again on **Mon, Nov 3 at 10am**. Join us for good coffee and great conversation as we begin a new topic exploring the **various religions and Christian denominations of the world**. As we learn about different beliefs, we'll reflect on what we believe and hold to be true. Expect engaging and thoughtful discussion as we grow in understanding—both of our own faith and of others. **Please join us on Mondays at 10!** If you're not able to meet with us in person, study sheets will be available on the kiosk so you can follow along from home.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

We start each week by hanging out and playing games for about 30 minutes, then settle in to check in with one another and share prayers before diving into Bible study. This year, we're exploring how the Bible can be a tool for growing faith and deepening commitment to God. Come enjoy good conversation, faith, and fun in

our newly made-over youth room!



First Communion was Sunday, Oct 26. Congratulations to our 16 youth receiving 1st Communion!



OUTREACH/CHURCH LIFE/CHRISTMAS SEASON

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2, at both the 8 and 10 services, Christ Lutheran will light candles in memory of our beloved saints who now rest with God. We extend a warm welcome to you to attend the worship service to receive comfort and peace.

FOOD PACK AT CLC! - November 19

On November 19 at 5:30pm the Congregation is invited to assist with a food pack through Real Hope For the Hungry in CLC's fellowship hall. In about an hour we will pack 1 pallet of food. ***Donations to cover the shipping and ingredient costs are welcomed!***

ADVENT CANDLE READINGS

Please consider signing up for advent readings and to light the candles during the Sunday services in December. The sign up sheet is on the table outside of the office.

BYRON FOOD SHELF

The Food Shelf is 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. CLC's food collections go to the Byron food shelf.

DRESSES FOR AFRICA COMPLETED!

During this past summer, several members of our congregation began sewing dresses for Africa. Our goal was to complete 150 dresses. We actually met our goal and beyond. We finished with a grand total of 176 dresses. We also collected 125 pair of



boys shorts that were donated.

These dresses and shorts will be delivered early November to the Dodge Center Seventh Day Adventist Church. Fifty five people will be leaving mid November on a mission trip to Kenya Africa to deliver our donations plus those from other area congregations. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the people who helped with cutting, ironing, sewing and assembling the dresses. Thank you also for all donated supplies which included: fabric, elastic, bias tape and the racks for displaying them in the sanctuary.

On Sunday 10/26, Pastor Jeremy gave a blessing for the dresses/shorts. These dresses and shorts will bring much joy to the boys and girls who receive them. Thank you again and many hands made the labor light.

ADULT FORUM - SUN, NOV 9, 9AM

Making the Best of Thrivent: Opportunities for You and Our Church

Join us on Sun, Nov 9th, between services in the Fellowship Hall to learn how Thrivent Action Teams, Thrivent Choice Dollars, and other member benefits can support you and our congregation.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CLC will likely have 3 Christmas services with communion on December 24, times to be determined. The services will feature candlelight, carols, and the Christmas story. We need the following volunteers at each service: acolytes, communion helpers, readers, and projector volunteers. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please let the office know or use the sign up sheet on the table outside the office, in November.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Order forms will be available in later November.

CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE

CLC will host its annual Christmas Bake Sale on December 6th in the Entry. We are asking each family please provide a batch of their favorite Christmas baked goods and/or homemade gift items. Drop off times are Friday, December 5 from 4-6pm and Saturday, Dec 6 from 8-9am. Please invite your friends and family to come on Saturday, December 6 from 9-11am to pick out their favorite treats and support our bake sale. Contact is Evonne Schlobohm, evonneschlobohm@gmail.com



CLC SHARING TREE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

This year the CLC Sharing Tree will be collecting items for the residents at the Benedictine Senior Assisted Living Center and Memory Care. A list of suggested items needed are listed below as well as copies on the Sharing Tree.

ITEMS NEEDED

- * Large Print Word Search/Puzzle Books
- * Coloring Books (adult and simple bigger pictures)
- * Markers, fine tipped and regular (easier to hold)
- * Body and Hand Lotions
- * Individually wrapped chocolate candy (Hershey Kisses, Fun size Candy Bars etc.)
- * Body Wash for Men and Women
- * Note Pads
- * Pens
- * Colored Pencils
- * Grippy Socks
- * Tooth Brushes
- * Tooth Paste



Donated items will be collected through Sunday, December 14, 2025
Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.
Altar Committee

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

BOOK CLUB - will be meeting Tue, Nov. 4 at 6pm at CLC. We will be discussing "The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches" by Sangu Mandanna. December's book will be handed out at that meeting. Our book club uses Book in a Bag from the Rochester Public Library. This makes things easy for those who join us as each time we meet, we distribute a copy of our next month's book to read. Anyone is welcome to join! Questions, contact Ruth: Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie: kjn0312@gmail.com. Our December read is "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler.

CARD MAKING - We will meet Nov 15 from 9am - noon. We will not meet in Dec., but resume in Jan 2026. All are welcome as we make cards for others! Contact is Kari Prigge.

MEALS ON WHEELS - This September, our volunteers delivered 13 - 20 meals a day, during the month. If interested in volunteering, contact Sandy Erickson.

JOY CLUB - The JOY Club will meet, Tuesday, November 11 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses are Diane Bisping and Alice Blom. New members are always welcomed!

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - OCT TO DEC

Treats for fellowship time are needed every week. If your last name starts with U - Z, please drop off the treats before 8am on Sundays. Home made or store bought are appreciated. Contact Sandy Erickson if you want to help with the kitchen crew for coffee hour.

JUBELLANCE

The bell choir will now practice every Wednesday at 6pm, starting in November. We play once a month at the 8am service. Contact is Jane Cabaya at 507-775-6183 or jcabaya25@gmail.com. Please consider joining our fun group!

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - We will not meet in Nov & Dec.

TIME AND TALENT FORMS AND PLEDGE CARDS

Please bring your pledge cards and time and talent sheets to the worship services during November and drop in the offering baskets. To update your Time & Talent sheets (volunteer opportunities at CLC) for 2026, complete the form you received in the mail or update online at: www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/ If you do not submit changes, your current selections will continue indefinitely.

TIME CHANGE - Set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, Nov 2.

MEN'S GROUP

Pastor Jeremy will host Men's Group on Thursday, November 20 at 9am at Otto's Bakery. Our December 18 group will make pancakes and bacon for breakfast at CLC, also at 9am. Invite friends and neighbors!



Recently seen around CLC...



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING - OCT 21, 2025

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

Members present: T Anderson, J Biewer, A Ebenhoh, L Eischens, C Meek, D Oestreich, J Pfeilsticker, T Tweite, Pastor J Johnson.

Members absent: L Brown, L Danielski, R Holz, and C Smith.

Joys and Concerns

Devotions: By Joe Biewer

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by Tom Tweite. Ashley Ebenhoh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of September Minutes: Motion made by Jason Pfeilsticker to approve the September minutes. Tom Tweite seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Jason Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. September income \$25,675.47; September expenses \$26,493.15; September difference -\$817.68; YTD Difference -\$13,582.45.

Pastor Lesson: Pastor Jeremy gave a brief overview on his last 12 weeks of being at Christ Lutheran.

Information/Discussion Items:

Brief Overview of Committees from the Council Reps:

Building and Grounds: LuRaye Eischens reported that the leak in the roof has been fixed and the light on the cross has been replaced. They will be painting the old 4th grade classroom. Fall clean-up will be Saturday, October 25.

Worship and Music: Tim Anderson reported that they are going to bring back reciting the creed at the contemporary service. The Worship and Music Committee also

discussed compensation whenever we need a substitute organist.

Youth Committee: Cece Meek reported that planning has begun for the next mission trip in July to Duluth.

Budget Committee: Jason Pfeilsticker reported they will start working on the budget in the near future.

Pastor Jeremy mentioned that Emily Carson from the Synod will be meeting with the council on December 14 to help get the ball rolling and discuss what the future holds and what our needs are at Christ Lutheran as far as hiring a half-time person.

Joe Biewer reported that the council table in the Narthex will start up again in November.

Pastor Jeremy will contact the Community Resource Officer and set up a time for that person to meet with a few council members and come up with safety plans for the church.

Discussion was held regarding updating the constitution. This effort will start within the next several months. Two council members and two non-council members will be on a sub-committee to get this started.

Action Items:

None.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Tim Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Jason Pfeilsticker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

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

- 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.

2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

CONSIDER QCD DONATIONS - If you are over 70 1/2, consider a QCD. Ask the office for more info.

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 \$34 in October 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

November 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 507-775-6646 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

Pastor's article continued from p1... I invite you to think of all those with whom you have shared the holy meal with throughout your lives...and then to think of the One who promises to be with us and them, now and forever. Though the Saints are gone from us, we do remember them in our hearts and minds. We remember that God promises that they are in Christ, and Christ is with us, so they cannot be very far away. Thanks be to God for all the Saints! Your sister in Christ, *Pastor Judy+*

CLC NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Thank-you to all the committee members who are serving on the various committees. We are so appreciative of the work you have been doing at Christ Lutheran. If you no longer want to serve, please let council president, Joe Biewer, know. If you are new to the church and would like to serve in various committees, according to your gifts, please complete our Time and Talent Form. (clcbyron.org - participate)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Leif Peterson, Jerry Hutchinson, Allan Kvitem, Gary Smith, 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.



"Think of it as reading God's diary."

ATTENDANCE

August 2025 Avg	116
August 2024 Avg	121
Sept 2025 Avg	181
Sept 2024 Avg	164
10/5	154
10/12	227
10/19	200
10/26	256
Oct 2025 Avg	209
Oct 2024 Avg	193