



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - JANUARY

Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, the "Holidays" are over for another year. The gifts opened, the Christmas dinners eaten, the cards sent (or not...) and perhaps by now you even have your tree down. In the dark winter days of January, the Holiday Spirit can sometimes seem to disappear as the realities of life return, and our old routines resume.

But for those in Christ, the blessed revelation comes again and again- EMMANUEL!!! God is with us now! The greatest Love story ever told begins anew each and every day of our lives. Christ the Savior is Born, and though it can seem as if nothing has changed, everything is different. Seen through eyes of faith, we do both perceive and bear witness to the breaking in of the reign of the Prince of Peace. As one of my favorite Christmas Hymns declares: "His way is peace and freedom and justice, truth and love." We have been called to both proclaim and work for this way. New ways of seeing and being in this world can change "the way it always has been". We have been given a new way to live which ushers in life, hope and peace, not just for us, but for all of God's Children. As one author puts it:

"Love God, love others. ALL others.

Everything else in the Bible flows from these two commandments.

Jesus brilliantly simplified and explained what we are to do.

Everything else is just commentary on how we can love God and those around us.

That is what we are called to do.

These are our marching orders."

As the dark days of winter continue, by the power of the Holy Spirit we see a Light that shines, more brightly in the darkness. We are infused with a hope beyond all human hope, and are given a vision of a world where all are nurtured, loved and safe. Our lives have purpose and meaning, for by God's grace we live and move and have our being. We are called to share that love and grace with all of God's world!

I close with a verse from a favorite hymn:

"Take heart, take heart, take heart in the night; though dark the winter and cheerless; the rising sun will crown us with light; Be Strong and loving and fearless; Love be our token, Love our prayer; Love our endless story; May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory!" (from the hymn "Awake, Awake and Greet the Morn")

May we give only love, all of our days.

God's GRACE and PEACE are yours in Christ, our Lord +

-Pastor Judy



AFRICA MISSION TRIP SPEAKERS - On Sun, Jan 11 during the 10am service, members of The 7th Day Advent Church from Dodge Center will be coming to CLC to share their experience of their mission trip to Africa, in which members of CLC came together to make 176 dresses and sent 125 pairs of shorts/t-shirts. The clothing items were presented to the children during their week of VBS.



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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - JANUARY

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 January will be:

1/4 - Jesus the Word - John 1:10-18

1/11 - Jesus' Baptism - Luke 3:13-17

1/18 - No Sunday School

1/25 - The Disciples - Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4

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.

Thanks! Francine, Sunday School Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

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

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

CONFIRMATION NEWS AND 6TH GRADE

SUNDAY SCHOOL - JANUARY On Wednesday, 1/21/26, there is no class for 6th graders, but 7th & 8th graders will have a 6pm dinner together followed by a game called "Catacombs". This game will model for students what it was like for the early Christians meeting in the catacombs to avoid Roman persecution. Throughout the month of January, 6th grade will continue with lessons about "What is Church?"; 7th & 8th grade will continue with a "Tough Questions" unit.

-Holly Alsleben, Confirmation/6th Grade Coordinator

BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY - Our world religions study will resume on Mon, Jan 12, when we'll begin a new session exploring Buddhism. From there, we'll transition into learning about various Christian denominations and beliefs, reflecting on both our

shared

MISSION TRIP 2026

Duluth, MN - July 19-24, 2025

We still have 2 open spots! A \$150 deposit is due by January 7 to secure your spot. Payment can be in the form of cash, check, or Venmo (please note: mission trip)

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. Two trip leaders are still needed.

roots and important differences within the Christian tradition. Enjoy this time of rest and celebration, and we look forward to gathering again in January for continued learning and conversation. Open to members and nonmembers.

KWIK TRIP CAR WASHES - Buy your car wash cards for \$40/5 washes on the 1st Sunday of the month. Proceeds support the mission trip and Bible Camp Scholarships.

YOUTH GROUP - CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec is a busy month, so we're stretching the Christmas celebration into January! All high school students are invited to our Christmas Party on Sun, Jan 11.

We'll depart from CLC at 1PM and head to Steeplechase in Mazeppa for an afternoon of snow tubing.

Afterward, we'll go out to grab something to eat and finish the day with a White Elephant gift exchange.

Please sign up using the Google Sheet below. Even if you're not sure you can attend yet, add your name—it helps us get a sense of interest and plan accordingly.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s2gn_af0P9t8xhtEQj5m_t_EPJqnTZg0xlgmNiJPVZY/edit?usp=sharing

We're looking forward to a fun day together—hope you can join us! Bring your friends!!

ROCHESTER TEEN GOSPEL CHOIR - Practices begin in Feb and run until the May concert. No cost or auditions. You must commit to at least 4 rehearsals, which are Mon nights, 7-9pm. Contact: Gary Kadansky gary@teenhopeministries.org

WINTER BLAST AT CAMP VICTORY

\$170, grades 3-9, January 23-25, 2026

www.campvictory.com

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.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

BOOK CLUB

Merry Christmas from CLC Book Club! Our next gathering will be Tuesday, Jan 6 at 6:00 at church. We will be discussing "Boy, Snow, Bird" by H. Oyeyemi. After discussion, our book for February will be handed out: "The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom. Anyone is welcome to join us! Contacts, Ruth: Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie: kjn0312@gmail.com

CARD MAKING - We will meet on Sat, Jan 17 from 9am - noon. All are welcome as we make cards for others! Contact is Kari Prigge.

JOY CLUB - We will not meet in Jan or Feb due to the weather.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - JAN

Treats for fellowship time are needed every week. If your last name starts with A - E, please drop off the treats before 8am on Sundays. Contact Sandy Erickson if you want to help with the kitchen crew for coffee hour.

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - Sewing group will meet during January, date to be determined.

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.



MEN'S GROUP - Continuing Our Study of Martin Luther

Men's Group will meet again on Thurs, Jan 15th at 9am at Otto's Bakery. In our last gatherings, we explored Martin Luther's upbringing and his struggles as a monk trying to earn God's love. Next time, we'll pick up the story at a turning point in church history—when Luther posts the 95 Theses and begins to challenge the way faith, forgiveness, and grace were being understood. Good conversation, good food, and no homework required. All men are welcome—come when you can and bring a neighbor.

BYRON SCHOOLS NEEDS CLOTHING ITEMS - The Byron primary & intermediate schools are in desperate need of gently used elastic waist pants! Sweatpants, wind pants, leggings, joggers, etc in both girls and boys in all sizes from 4/5 up to 14/16 and everything in between. They could also use new underwear and socks in those same sizes.

If you're cleaning out closets or going shopping, they would appreciate anything you can send in. We will collect items at the church for the next couple of weeks and then deliver over to the school. Thanks!

BYRON FOOD SHELF - is located at DACS building, 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Hours are: Wed 9-11am, Thur 12-2pm, and 1st Fri of month 6-8pm. CLC's food collections go to the Byron food shelf.

PIZZA & PUZZLING - The Education Committee will be hosting the very popular pizza and puzzling contest on Sunday, March 8 at 11:30am. Watch for a sign up.



SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY - Please bring in your Food Shelf items to donate, or a cash donation for the Byron Food Shelf on or before Souperbowl Sunday, February 8.

Recently seen around CLC...



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 12/16/2025

The Christ Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Joe Biewer. Members present: J Biewer, L Brown, L Danielski, R Holz, L Eischens, A Ebenhoh, C Meek, D Oestreich, J Pfeilsticker, T Tweite, and Pastor J Johnson. Members absent: T Anderson and C Smith.

Joys and Concerns - Devotions: By DrewAnne Oestreich.
Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by L Brown. L Danielski seconded the motion. Motion passed.
Approval of November Minutes: Motion made by J Pfeilsticker to approve the November minutes. T Tweite seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Jason Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. November income \$23,341.88; November expenses \$26,785.38; November difference -\$3,443.50; YTD Difference -\$22,391.48.

Pastor Lesson: Jeremy provided an overview of various Bibles available to meet individual needs.

Information/Discussion Items:

Brief Overview of Committees from the Council Reps:

Building and Grounds: L Eischens reported that the Building and Grounds Committee received estimates for recarpeting some of the Sunday School rooms. The nursery and pre-school rooms will be recarpeted first.

Stewardship Committee: T Tweite mentioned that there will be a kick-off event for "Generous Together" in Owatonna on January 17. Generous Together is a program thru the ELCA that is designed to help congregations with methods and training for year-round stewardship. Tom suggested forming a committee from the congregation to work on this.

Education Committee: L Danielski reported that on March 8 there will be a puzzle and pizza party. Aug 3-6 will be VBS. J Biewer gave an overview of our Council Retreat with Emily Carson, Dir for Evangelical Mission and Asst to the Bishop. Volunteers are needed to cover the council table on Sun-

days. In Jan those covering are as follows: Jan 4: T Tweite; Jan 11: T Tweite; Jan 18: L Eischens; Jan 25: L Danielski.

Finalizing the Emergency Preparedness Plan is being tabled until January. L Brown volunteered to help with this.

Discussion was held regarding updating the constitution. T Anderson and T Tweite from the council along with S Briske and H Alsleben will form a sub-committee to get this started. J Pfeilsticker shared the proposed 2026 budget. The council will review this in detail at our Jan council meeting and vote on it at that time.

J Biewer mentioned that three council members' 3-year terms are up--R Holz, T Tweite, and A Ebenhoh. They can re-up for another 3 years if they so desire. T Tweite wishes to go off the council since his term is up-he is taking on other church duties. We will have one open spot on the council.

A task force to address our staffing needs will start meeting in January. T Tweite, L Danielski, R Holz, D Oestreich, and Pastor Jeremy will be on this task force, along with one or two church members outside of the council.

Action Items:

The upcoming annual meeting was discussed. Motion made by Luke Brown and seconded by Randy Holz for the annual meeting to be held on February 8 at 9:05 a.m. (in-between services).

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by R Holz to adjourn the meeting. A Ebenhoh seconded, motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES - Please submit your committee reports for the annual report, to the church office by Monday, January 5, 2026.

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

2026 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 \$150 in November in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS



Venmo

Vanco



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

January 2026



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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Thank-you to all, who are serving on the various committees. We are so appreciative of your work at CLC. 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)

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NEEDED - If you have an interest in serving on the council or any of the committees, please let current council president, Joe Biewer, or either Pastor know.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sun, Feb 8, 2026, 9am - All active, confirmed members of CLC are encouraged to attend and be a part of the decision making process of our church. Questions may be addressed to any church council member. Watch for a council table in January.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Carolyn Reinecke, Jerry Hutchinson, Monica Ronnenberg, 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

Oct 2025 Avg	209
Oct 2024 Avg	193
Nov 2025 Avg	183
Nov 2024 Avg	181
12/7/25	269
12/14/25	131
12/21/25	168
12/24/25	516
12/28/25	65
Dec 2025 Avg	158
Dec 2024 Avg	168

*note, Dec avgs do not include Dec 24, only Sundays are included

