



February 2026

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE - FEBRUARY

Greetings Christ Lutheran!

Winter can be done anytime now. I feel the chill of winter air today. It's the slow-moving months of January and February. Not only slow as in they seem to take forever, but slow as in I move a little slower. Brrr... cold.

Winter has a way of asking less of us physically—and sometimes more of us spiritually. The days are shorter, the sidewalks a little icier, and the motivation to go out drops as the temperature does. And yet, this is often the season when simply *showing up matters the most*.

The prophet Micah puts faith simply: *“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). Notice how ordinary that sounds. No rush. No grand gestures. Just faithful steps, taken day by day—even when the ground is cold and the pace is slow.*

Paul echoes this encouragement when he writes, *“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap a harvest time, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9). Winter can feel like that weary season, when the harvest feels far off. But God is still at work, even now, beneath the surface.*

So if showing up looks smaller this time of year—coming to worship when the couch feels warmer, offering a prayer when words are hard to find, caring for a neighbor in quiet ways—know that it matters. Faith doesn't have to sprint. Sometimes it simply walks carefully, bundled up, trusting that new life will come.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jeremy

### NEW MEMBER SUNDAY - FEB 22

We are excited to celebrate New Member Sunday on Sunday, February 22! During both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship services, we will recognize and welcome individuals and families who have recently become members of our congregation.

The church office will be reaching out to new member families soon with an invitation to participate. If you believe you should be included and don't hear from us in the near future, please don't hesitate to reach out to the church office or one of the pastors.

New members will receive a welcome packet and gift from the church, and because no celebration is complete without dessert, we'll be serving cake between worship services. Who doesn't like cake?

(Don't worry—we promise not to embarrass you... too much.)

We look forward to celebrating and giving thanks for our growing church family!



Jeremy Johnson  
Senior Pastor  
pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org



Judy Thompson-Reitz  
Interim Part Time Pastor  
peacejudy@hotmail.com

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## EDUCATION/YOUTH

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - FEBRUARY

If you are interested in volunteering or helping in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at [fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com) or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for February will be:

2/1 - The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

2/8 - Salt and Light - Matthew 5:13-20

2/15 - The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-13

2/22 - The First Sin - Genesis 3:1-24

Preschool through 4th graders will sing on 2/8 at the 8 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.

Thanks! Francine, Sunday School Coordinator

### SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

[Sunday School Registration Link](#)

**CONFIRMATION NEWS** - Students will continue a "Tough Questions" unit for the first 2 classes in February. Lenten soup suppers begin on Ash Wed, Feb 18th. Watch for a student meal prep/meal serving schedule rotation that will be emailed to you soon as well as a SignUpGenius for much needed parent volunteers to help us with meals. 8th grade students will start working on their faith statements and stoles during Lenten evenings after helping with the meal. Your student should try to have a favorite Bible verse they would like to use for their faith statement and stole chosen before Lenten services so they can get started on their project without delay. Students should attend all Lenten services after helping with meals and complete sermon notes during the service if they have not completed their 12 sermon notes yet. The last day to turn in sermon notes and service project forms into the kiosk for credit will be Saturday, March 28th. Please check the sermon note and service project tracking logs and help your student get caught up if they are behind.

**5TH QUARTER** - We'll once again be hosting a 5th Quarter on February 27th from 7:30 - 10:30PM! While we weren't able to line this up with a basketball game, it will still be a fun night to hang out with friends. This event is open to all Byron High School students, so bring your friends! We'll have food, snacks, prizes, and tons of activities—including the Dirty Soda Bar, bean bags, Spike Ball, karaoke, SWAT, board games, Rock Band, Mario Kart, carpetball, and foosball.

**BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY** - Our world religions study continues in Feb. Next, we'll transition into learning about various Christian denominations and beliefs, reflecting on both our shared roots and important differences within the Christian tradition. Open to members and nonmembers. We will not meet during lent.

**YOUTH GROUP** - Our high school youth group continues to meet on Wednesdays. They often participate in our halftime events—and sometimes help out too—with serving drinks at the Dirty Soda Bar being a favorite. In Bible study, we've wrapped up learning some basic tools for understanding and studying Scripture. We're now moving into an overview of the biblical timeline to better understand the history and structure of the story of God and God's people.

### MISSION TRIP 2026 - Duluth, MN - July 19-24

The 2nd payment of \$125 is now due. If you would like a scholarship, speak with Pastor Jeremy privately. One trip leader is still needed.

**BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** - Registration forms will be on the kiosk soon, or find 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](http://www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Biblecampedcom.pdf)

**6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Emily Carson from the Synod will present on Feb 11 to help kids in learning about the greater church ministry. Lenten services start with Ash Wednesday on Feb 18th. Pastor Jeremy would like 6th graders to attend at least 2 Wed Lenten services, but join us for all of them if you're able!

### GOOD EARTH VILLAGE - SUMMER CAMP

Registration is available for youth summer camp at [www.goodearthvillage.org/summer](http://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.

**KID'S CLUB** - On February 17th from 2:45–3:00 PM, we'll be hosting Kid's Club at Christ Lutheran Church! Students will learn about the meaning and practices of Lent, make their own delicious homemade soft pretzel (a treat with a 1,300-year-old history and a symbol of prayer!), enjoy eating it, and create a fun craft. We suggest \$5 per child to help cover expenses. Students are welcome to invite friends—each friend should complete the same sign-up form. Activities will begin around 3:00 PM, so kids can arrive anytime after school. If you need transportation from school to the church, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet, and we'll reach out to make arrangements. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18pYaihbDObu2R91DFUcRzSyObGDixZ7VON\\_97E7nJc0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18pYaihbDObu2R91DFUcRzSyObGDixZ7VON_97E7nJc0/edit?usp=sharing)



## YOUTH CONT/LENT

**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.

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

**SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** - Applications will be located on the kiosk in later February.

### LENTEN SKITS – ACTORS NEEDED

During Lent, Christ Lutheran will again use the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, along with a short weekly skit as part of our midweek worship. To make this possible, we're looking for a few actors—also known as people willing to read a script out loud. No memorization required and no acting experience necessary.

This year's skit series, *Good Morning Galilee*, is a lighthearted morning talk show that explores the history and meaning of Passover and the Last Supper. We'll need 3–4 actors each week, with some roles recurring over multiple weeks.

If you'd be interested in helping, please let Pastor Jeremy know. It's a meaningful (and fun) way to participate in worship and faith formation during the Lenten season. We're excited to share this time of worship, fellowship, and storytelling together during Lent.

### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays through March 25th. The soup suppers are a free will offering.

Below is the schedule for the Lenten Soup Suppers:

**February 18 Worship/Music + Musicians**

**February 25 Education & Alter Committees**

**March 4 Church Council**

**March 11 Memorial & Building/Grounds**

**March 18 Evangelism**

**March 25 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 me know. We have a list of volunteers who have offered to help. Please assign members of your group to bring the following: **7 containers of soup, each 5 quarts or more and 7 large 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, please bring by noon; if hot, by 4PM.)

The confirmation classes will do the set up and clean up. In return, the money raised supports the youth to attend summer Bible camp and/or on the youth mission trip. During this time of Lent, may we all enjoy our fellowship together, support our youth, and be renewed in the spirit of Christ our Lord and Risen Savior.

Please contact me with any questions.

Julie Carlblom, Worship & Music Committee  
Cell: 250-1302 Email: jcarlblom@kmtel.com

### ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT OFFERINGS

The Ash Wed offering will go into regular giving in the general account. Offerings from the five Wednesday night Lenten services will be sent to World Hunger unless it is placed in your Sunday offering envelope.

### LENTEN SERVICE DETAILS

This year during the Lenten season we will learn about the history and meaning of Passover and the Last Supper. Soup suppers will run from 5-6:15pm with all evening services starting at 6:30pm.

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes (regular worship with communion)

### SAVE THE DATE - PALM SUNDAY FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, March 29, more details to come!

**CONNEXIONS** - Teen Gospel Choir is changing in 2026 due to the Choir Director stepping down. The group will continue to meet as a hang out spot for teens and an opportunity for conversations, fellowship and music, all led by the students. ConneXions begins on Mon, Feb 23 from 7-8:30pm and runs through late April. For more info, email Gary Kadansky at gary@teenhopeministries.org

### THANK-YOUS

Thank-you for the Christmas bag of goodies! We enjoyed! Bless you all! - the Strains

I would like to thank the confirmation students who remember the elderly who cannot get around very easily. I really like the goodies and treats that you gave me. Thank-you all who gave birthday wishes; especially the giant birthday card. I have never had a big birthday card like that before! I thought it was a unique gift. I got to show it off on my door. - Mary Tweite

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

**BOOK CLUB** - Book club will be meeting Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 6:00 at church. We will be discussing "The Kitchen House". When we meet, the next book we are reading will be distributed. That book is "The Bridge Ladies". Please join us if you are interested. Contacts, Ruth: Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie: kjn0312@gmail.com

**CARD MAKING** - We will not meet during February.

**JOY CLUB** - Weather permitting, we will go to lunch at Perkins on Tue, Feb 10. Please contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 if you are attending. We will try to car pool.

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - FEB

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.

**QUILTING/SEWING GROUP** - The quilting/sewing group will now meet the first Thursday of the month in the fellowship hall from 9am-noon. **Our next scheduled date is Thursday, February 5.**

Our first project is to make more baptismal quilts. We have enough fabric to complete 8 in pink, teal, yellow, and blue. Tasks for Feb 5 will include ironing fabrics, cutting, sewing and assembling the quilts. Any needed supplies will be provided, pattern and instructions for cutting/sewing and assembling. We will have an ironing station, cutting mats and rotary cutters. You're welcome to bring your sewing machine, scissors, thread, pins. After we finish the baptism quilts we will check with Child and Family Services of needs for teen moms, Woman's Shelter, The Landing etc. This might include baby quilts, bibs, burp cloths, blankets, and quilts or other suggested projects. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

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

## 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 Thur, Feb 19 at 9am at Otto's Bakery. All men are welcome - members and non-members.

**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.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - CLC volunteers will be delivering meals during March. Contact Sandy Erickson if interested in helping, we can always use

**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....



## THANK-YOUS

Christ Lutheran Ladies - I want to thank you for the great Christmas things. I enjoyed everything in the Christmas box. Thanks so much!  
- Stella Anderson

Thank-you 8th grade confirmation class for the lovely Christmas bag. It is wonderful knowing that you are "making Christ's love known" to our "Seniors" at CLC. Once again, thank you! - Jeanne & David Tweite



# STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

## CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 1/20/2026

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

**Members present:** T Anderson, J Biewer, L Brown, L Danielski, A Ebenhoh, L Eischens, C Meek, J Pfeilsticker, C Smith, T Tweite, and Pastor J Johnson. **Members absent:** R Holz, D Oestreich

Joys and Concerns; Devotions: By Joe Biewer

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

Approval of December Minutes: Motion made by L Danielski to approve the December minutes. J Pfeilsticker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: J Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. December income \$35,607.44; December expenses \$26,207.83; December difference \$9,399.61; YTD Difference -\$12,991.87.

### Information/Discussion Items:

Brief Overview of Committees from the Council Reps:

**Building and Grounds:** L Eischens reported that new carpet was installed in the nursery and preschool rooms. Some of the plumbing was replaced in the men's restroom.

**Education:** L Danielski reported that on March 8 there will be a pizza and puzzle party. Confirmation will be held on April 25. They are planning an egg hunt on Palm Sunday.

**Altar:** A Ebenhoh reported that the Committee is looking for a few more members to join or else a few volunteers to help out during their busy time of decorating which is mostly for Easter and Christmas.

**Music and Worship:** T Anderson discussed that they are working on the schedule for the Lenten suppers. The council is responsible for the meal on March 4.

We will continue to have a council table available in the narthex on Sundays for anyone that might have a question for the council. L Danielski will cover on January 25.

L Brown gave an update on the Emergency Preparedness Plan that is being drawn up. The committee is starting to meet and gather ideas on what the plan will include.

T Tweite reported that the Constitution subcommittee began meeting to gather ideas on updating the constitution.

T Tweite and L Danielski briefed the council on their first Staffing Needs meeting.

J Pfeilsticker shared the 2026 budget that will go into the annual report. He also mentioned that the financials were audited and all looked good.

J Biewer shared information on the upcoming "Councils as Leaders 2026" workshop which will be held on Sat, Mar 14 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin. He encouraged any council member interested to attend.

We thanked T Tweite for his service on the church council. He will be going off the council and working on other church committees.

Pastor Jeremy mentioned the need for a new church directory. Joe will put something in the newsletter and announce this at the annual meeting to see who might be interested in working on this.

New member Sunday will be February 22. We will spread the word and Pastor Jeremy will reach out to anyone who might be interested in joining Christ Lutheran.

### Action Items:

Motion to include the 2026 Budget in the annual report: Motion made by L Brown to include this in the annual report. A Ebenhoh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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**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.

## 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 \$78 in December 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

February 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

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES CONT.

Motion to include the revision of the 2026 committee members in the annual report: T Tweite made this motion, C Meek seconded, motion passed. Motion to adjourn: Motion made by T Tweite to adjourn the meeting, C Meek seconded, motion passed. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Feb 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Thank-you to all, who are serving on the various committees. We appreciate your work at CLC! If you no longer want to serve, please let council president, Joe Biewer, know. If you would like to serve in various committees, according to your gifts, please complete our Time and Talent Form. (clcbyron.org - participate)

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - Sun, Feb 8, 2026, 9:10am - All active, confirmed members of CLC are encouraged to attend and be a part of the decision making process of our church.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Jerry Hutchinson, Monica Ronnenberg, Donna & Conrad Hoffman, 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

Nov 2025 Avg	183
Nov 2024 Avg	181
Dec 2025 Avg	158
Dec 2024 Avg	168
*note, Dec avgs do not include Dec 24, only Sundays are included	
January 4, 2026	145
January 11, 2026	168
January 18, 2026	154
January 25, 2026	132
Jan 2026 Avg	150
Jan 2025 Avg	139