



**Dear Friends in Christ,**

As some of you may know, I was not raised in the life giving tradition of Lutheran Christianity.

I lived my early life terrified of the “wrath of God”, and of going to Hell if I messed up. (I seemed particularly gifted for messing up.) I asked a lot of questions which seemed to irritate the pastor to no end, until he finally told me I had the devil in my heart because I was questioning God. While I did learn the beloved song, “Jesus Loves me”, I was not nearly sure of what GOD thought of me. And while we sang “Amazing Grace”, I was taught that God's Grace was conditional, transactional. It depended upon my behavior. I lived precariously under the judgment of the stern and punishing God, about whom I was taught.

It wasn't until I went to Luther College, that I was exposed to the radical truth that changed everything. I didn't even know who this Luther guy was, and actually decided on Luther because of the beautiful natural springs, rivers and parks which surrounded the Campus. But it was at Luther that I was exposed to the Grace of God in Christ Jesus. The grace freely given to broken people, yes, even before we get our act together. It was evident in the daily chapel services, in the professors who taught all disciplines, and in the students, who seemed quite joyous, compassionate and carefree. Such a different spirit permeated that place. Over time, I realized the majority of these students were raised in the Lutheran faith, steeped in Grace.

In Lutheran terms, this is called Article IV of our Lutheran Confessions. “We confess that we are saved by Grace, and this is not our own doing, so none should boast.” Luther said this one article is the article on which the church stands or falls. We live by, in and through GRACE.

It is an amazing grace that is not conditional or transactional. It is the forgiving, loving, redeeming, transforming, life sustaining and liberating Grace of God given freely in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is that loving grace that flows down from the Cross. During this Lenten season, we will witness what this grace cost the living God. In the words of the apostle Paul: **“For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace, through the redemption that we have received in Christ Jesus.”**

And what is to be our response to such undeserved Grace? It is to acknowledge that we all owe a debt we can never repay, and in gratitude and gladness, devote our lives to serving the living God made known in Christ. We have been “called into God's marvelous light”, to live our lives bearing witness to the will and way of God made known in Christ. This gives us a different perspective, a new reality, with which to live in this world. No matter how chaotic we humans make this world, we belong to the God who has the power to bring order out of chaos, light into the darkness, hope that will not disappoint us and a love that will never, ever let us go!

I will leave you with the blessing our confirmands receive, as the cross is marked upon their foreheads:

**“You are a beloved, magnificent child of God. You are unique in all the universe, so let your light shine and do not let anybody put your light out.”** It is my hope and prayer that we can trust and live in the truth of that children's song: “Jesus Loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!”

Peace and blessings! Pastor Judy+



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## EDUCATION/YOUTH

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - MARCH

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 March will be:

3/1 - Abram's Call - Genesis 12:1-9

3/8 - Woman at the Well - John 4:5-42

3/15 - Pool of Siloam - John 9:1-41

3/22 - No Sunday School - Spring Break

3/29 - Holy Week - Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14-27:66

The Education Committee will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the Sunday School kids on Palm Sunday 3/29 during Sunday School.

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

**CONFIRMATION NEWS** - Please use the SignUp-Genius for much needed parent volunteers to help us with meals. 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.

**BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY** - The Brew Crew will meet on March 9 and 16 to continue our study of World Religions. We are currently exploring various Christian denominations. Deepening our understanding of others within the Christian faith enriches the unity of the Body of Christ and helps us better understand our own beliefs.

**YOUTH GROUP** - All youth are encouraged to join us for Soup & Service during Lent! It's a great opportunity to gather for food, worship, and time together as we journey through this season of reflection and

growth. The youth room will also be open Wednesdays for anyone who would like to come early, or just hang out. We look forward to seeing you there!

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### FORUM ON CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS - MAR 15

On Sunday, March 15, between worship services in the Chapel, we invite you to attend a congregational forum regarding updates to our constitution and bylaws.

A task force has been formed to review and make needed revisions to these guiding documents. This will be a thoughtful and thorough process that will unfold over the coming months, with opportunities for additional forums to share information and invite conversation along the way. The goal is to present an updated constitution for congregational consideration at the Annual Meeting in February 2027.

This first forum will focus only on the basics — the history of our current constitution, the general structure of how constitutions work, and an overview of the revision process. We will not be discussing any specific provisions at this time. We hope you'll join us as we begin this important work together.



### BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration forms are on the kiosk 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)

### PALM SUNDAY FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST Mar 29, 7:30 - 11:30

The Youth Committee is excited to host the Annual French Toast Breakfast featuring French toast, sausage, bananas, OJ, and coffee. Profits from this event sponsor CLC youth at Summer Bible Camp and the Mission Trip. What a great way to invest in our youth. Mission trip youth and their families are expected to volunteer for this event.

**SILENT AUCTION** Time to get creative! The Annual Silent Auction will be held Mar 29 from 7:30am to 11:30am. The Youth Committee is requesting themed basket donations or homemade crafts for the silent auction at the French Toast Breakfast. If you or your committee are willing to submit a themed basket or items to make up a themed basket, we would be most thankful. Donations can be dropped off in the office or on Mar 28 from 9-11am. Profits sponsor CLC youth at Bible Camps and Mission Trips.

## YOUTH CONT/LENT/NEW MEMBERS

**MISSION TRIP SHARES** - Forms can be found on the kiosk. Shares are \$25 each and help cover youth and chaperone expenses on the mission trip. You can purchase as many shares as you want. 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 SUNDAY** - High School senior recognition Sunday will be May 3rd. A reception with cake will be at 9am with recognition at the 10am worship service. Your CLC church family congratulates you on completing another important milestone. Families will be sent letters with details on submitting your bio and participating in the service. Scholarships will be presented.

**Scholarship Opportunities** - Scholarship applications will be on the kiosk soon and are due in to the church office by Sunday, April 12. Please submit scholarships individually in sealed envelopes marked with the scholarship's name. Three scholarship options for our seniors include the Youth Committee Scholarship, Hallaway Memorial Scholarship, and Jamsa Memorial Scholarship.

### 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.

### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The soup suppers began on Ash Wednesday, 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:

**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 the mission trip.

Questions. Julie Carlblom, Worship & Music Committee 250-1302 or jcarlblom@kmtel.com

**EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS** - To beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, the altar committee will be ordering lilies and mums from Houston's Greenhouse. Order forms will be on the table by the office, in later March.

**LENT OFFERINGS** - 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.

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, February 22nd, we recognized folks who recently became new members. We warmly welcome them to Christ Lutheran and encourage you to seek them out and introduce yourself in the near future! We will share photos of the new members on the bulletin board by the office.

Chris and Taylor Hill, Cameron Alex and Stephanie Goettl, James Matt and Katie Schmitt, Greta Ryan and Amalia Welle, Georgia, Clara, Olive, Leon Kyle and Katie Fuchs, Leah, Jacob Sarah Tweite

**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.

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

## BOOK CLUB

The CLC Book Club will be meeting Tue, Mar 3 at 6pm. We meet at church so easy to attend. We take turns "hosting" which means bringing a snack/treat and using study sheet to ask questions and guide discussion. And you don't even have to clean your house to host. On March 3rd, we will be discussing "The Bridge Ladies". When we get together, our April book will be distributed to read. That book will be Plain Truth by Jodi Piccoult. Contact Kristie Nelson at [kjn0312@gmail.com](mailto:kjn0312@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**CARD MAKING** - We will meet on Sat, March 21 from 9am - noon.

**JOY CLUB** - We will meet March 10th, at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The hostesses for March are Sandy Erickson and Monica Ronnenberg. New members are welcomed.

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR** - Treats for fellowship time are needed every week. If your last name starts with F - K, please drop off the treats before 8am on Sundays during March. Contact is Sandy Erickson.

## QUILTING/SEWING GROUP

The CLC sewing group is scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 5 in the fellowship hall from 9am-12 noon. We will be working on sewing some blocks together for several throw size quilts, for either Project Linus or the Landing. We will also work on baby blankets, quilts used for tummy time and polar fleese tie blankets, any size, for the Family Resource Center. We have donated flannel fabric to cut, sew and assemble simple blankets/quilts. Feel free to bring your sewing machine. Supplies provided are cutting mats, rotary cutters, scissors, rulers, iron and ironing board. Questions, contact Chris Polzin at [mpolzin@frontiernet.net](mailto:mpolzin@frontiernet.net) or 507-269-7579

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - March is the first month of 2026 for CLC volunteers to deliver meals to Byron neighbors. We deliver Mon - Fri. No weekends and no holidays, and every third month in a year. If anyone is interested in helping with this community project, contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 or email at [ske92377@gmail.com](mailto:ske92377@gmail.com).

## ASSEMBLING EASTER BASKETS

Please join the Evengelism Committee on Thur, Mar 26 at 10am in the fellowship hall as we assemble Easter Baskets for the shut-ins, and then deliver those baskets. Donations are needed: muffins, fruit cups, candy, Easter cards, breakfast bars, and cookies. Donations should be labeled and left in the kitchen. Contact Diane Bisping for more information.

**MEN'S GROUP** - Men's Breakfast will meet at Otto's Bakery on March 19 at 9am for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and conversation. There is growing interest in diving deeper into theological discussion. In a complicated world filled with important questions about our faith, we'll begin exploring our convictions more thoughtfully and learning how to articulate them clearly and graciously to others.

**PIZZA & PUZZLING** - The Education Committee will be hosting the very popular pizza and puzzling contest on Sunday, March 8 at 11:30am. Link to register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DABAE2BA7FB6-christ/44802860#/>



**SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY** - CLC Collected over \$125 in cash to send to the Byron Food Shelf from the Souperbowl Collections and had lots of food items donated. Thank-you CLC Members!

Recently seen around CLC....



Inquire in the office if you want the pretzel recipe!



# STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

## CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 2/17/2026

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

**Members present:** Tim Anderson, Joe Biewer, Linda Danielski, Ashley Ebenhoh, LuRaye Eischens, Deb Fugleberg, Gayle Jaben, Cece Meek, Jason Pfeilsticker, Carol Smith, and Pastor Jeremy Johnson. **Members absent:** Luke Brown and DrewAnne Oestreich; **Special Guests:** Randy Holz and Tom Tweite

**Joys and Concerns:** D Fugleberg gave an update on pretzel making by the 3-5 graders. C Smith mentioned that 34 Christmas bags were delivered to the shut-in's and others in December. Pastor Jeremy offered heartfelt condolences to the Reineke family on the passing of Carolyn. Her funeral will be this Sat, Feb 21 at CLC.

**Devotions:** By Joe Biewer

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

**Approval of January Minutes:** Motion made by J Pfeilsticker to approve the January minutes. T Anderson seconded, motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Jason Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. January income \$20,762.21; January expenses \$26,287.90; January difference -\$5,525.69; YTD Difference -\$5,525.69.

### Information/Discussion Items:

**Brief Overview of Committees from the Council Reps:**

**Building and Grounds:** L Eischens reported that T Van Heuklom is stepping down as chair of Building and Grounds Committee. They will look for a replacement in the near future.

**Constitution Update:** T Tweite reported that the Constitution subcommittee has been meeting and they are planning an adult forum in between services to update the congregation on their progress so far.

**Staffing Needs:** T Tweite, R Holz and L Danielski provided the council with pros and cons regarding staffing needs of the church. There will be an adult forum in between services on their findings.

**New members were welcomed:** Deb Fugleberg and Gayle Jaben.

**"Councils as Leaders 2026"** workshop which will be held Saturday, March 14 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin. A few council members will be attending.

The council will be providing soup and bars for the Lenten service on March 4 as follows: Soup: LuRaye, Gayle, Tim, Linda, Deb, Luke, Joe. Bars: Jason, Ashley, Carol, Cece, Joe, Deb. The food should be at the church by 4:00 on that Wednesday.

**Devotions for the year are as follows:**

March—Carol	July—Pastor Jeremy	Nov—Tim
April—Jason	August—Linda	Dec—Luke
May—LuRaye	Sep—Gayle	
June—Ashley	Oct—Deb	

**Committee Assignments:** These will be the same as last year with these changes: Gayle Jaben will be the Synod representative, and Deb Fugleberg will be on the Stewardship Committee.

**Christian Care Fund:** Pastor Jeremy explained that this fund is in the Memorial Account and this is for the needy.

**New member Sunday** will be February 22. Four new families will be joining Christ Lutheran.

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

## 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 \$1,304 in January in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

## 2026 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

### 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

**March 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 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)

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FROM P5

**Action Items:** None.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Gayle Jaben to adjourn the meeting. Tim Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Mar 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

## SAMARITAN BETHANY GOLF CLASSIC

June 18, Willow Creek Golf Course, Rochester

Sign up: <https://webforms.eleonline.com/FormDatas/27/a08e58a0-d803-4546-99b7-c81e229c76e5>

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for 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

Dec 2025 Avg	158
Dec 2024 Avg	168
*note, Dec avgs do not include Dec 24, only Sundays are included	
Jan 2026 Avg	150
Jan 2025 Avg	139
Feb 1	147
Feb 8	193
Feb 15	171
Feb 22	159
Feb 2026 Avg	168
Feb 2025 Avg	131