



October
2024

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
One of my favorite poems speaks of a Roman soldier, Martin de Tours, who later became a beloved Saint of the Church. Early in his career, Martin encountered a freezing beggar. That encounter transformed Martin's soul.

LESSON FOR BEGINNERS

*Martin of Tours,
When he earned his shilling
Trooping the flags
Of the Roman Guard
Came on a poor
Aching and chilling
Beggar in rags
By the barracks yard.
Blind to his lack,
The Guard went riding.
But Martin a moment
Paused and drew
The coat from his back,
His sword from hiding,
And sabered his raiment into two.
Now some who muse
On the allegory
Affect to find It a pious joke;*

*To the beggar what use,
For Martin what glory
In a deed half-kind
And part of a cloak?
Still, it has charm
And a point worth seizing-
For all who move
In the mortal sun
Know halfway warm
Is better than freezing
And half a love
Is better than none.*

(Phyllis McGinley)

Halfway warm is indeed, better than freezing, and half a love is better than no love at all. Even the smallest act of kindness or generosity of spirit can indeed make a difference in the lives our brothers and sisters in God's world.

We have been called to be members of the body of Christ, and to be Christ's presence in this world. Sometimes we may grow weary, sometimes we ourselves may be the one needing "half a love", sometimes it may seem that our lives aren't making any difference. That is when the Holy Spirit whispers strength and

hope into our tired souls. "I have called you by name and you are mine forever. My grace will be sufficient for you..."

My prayer is that we remain forever thankful that our God did not give us "half a love". God gave completely, pouring out His Divine love for the sake of our broken humanity as well as for the sake of God's world. Such Divine love has the power not simply to empower us to minister to others, but more importantly, to transform even the most hardened soul. Looking into the eyes of a suffering fellow human being transformed Martin de Tours forever. A seasoned Roman soldier had an encounter with a freezing beggar that opened his eyes and heart to overwhelming compassion and love of the Living God made known in Christ for all of God's children.

I want to thank you all for your generosity of spirit in this place! Your sharing of "time, talents and treasure" make a huge difference in God's world!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Judy



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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR OCTOBER

We are off to a great start of Sunday School! If you are interested in volunteering or helping in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at fkovash@hotmail.com or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for October will be:

10/6 - Adam and Eve - Genesis 2:4-25

10/13 - A Rich Man's Questions - Mark 10:17-31

10/20 - No Sunday School

10/27 - Bartimaeus Sees - Mark 10:46-52

5th Graders have started the First Communion Lessons and will have them every Sunday leading up to First Communion on 10/27.

Preschool through 4th graders will sing at the 8 AM service on 10/13.

Offering collected during Sunday school and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through June will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. July through December will go to the Channel One Food Shelf.

Thanks! Francine, Sunday School coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS

Forms can be found on the kiosk or printed from this link: www.clcbyron.org/Sunday-school/

YOUTH GROUP - We will be having our weekly Wednesday meetings from 7-8 in the church youth room. Hope to see you all for a fun time of worship and fellowship. Kim Postier, Youth Group Coordinator

MISSION TRIP - KANSAS CITY, MO

June 22-27, 2025

The Mission Trip spots are all filled! However, due to additional interest, we are looking at possibly booking more spots. Please communicate with the office if your student would like to attend by November 3, as we consider expanding our numbers with a second van.

The trip is open to students completing 8th - 12th grade in 2025. Registration forms (found on the kiosk) and \$150 deposit holds your spot. Total trip cost to families is \$375. Contact the office for more details.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - OCTOBER

Confirmation is off to a great start! Thank you for supporting the youth on this important journey in their faith. Mark your calendars for **Parent Night: Wednesday October 23!** Join your kids to learn about Jacob and Esau and see and experience a night in the life of a confirmation student.

Service project opportunities at the church:

- **Sunday School Helper:** It's not too late! Complete service project hours by helping with Sunday School. Required to help 3 Sundays September-December and 3 Sundays January-April. Counts as 4 hours of service project time!

- **Fall Clean Up Day** at Christ Lutheran Church: Saturday, October 19 from 9-12.

- **Trick or Treat Costume Party:** Sunday, October 27 from 5:30pm - 7pm

Tina Jordahl, Confirmation Coordinator

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Pastors Susan and Judy invite you to attend our weekly Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10am.

This fall, we will be starting Brian McClaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking". This book offers everything we need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today."

Each week will focus on scriptural passages, and explore their relevance in our post-modern world. The goal of each weekly study chapter is to: cultivate an honest, intelligent understanding of the Bible and of Christian Faith in the 21st Century; engage one another with study questions designed to challenge, stimulate and encourage; and re-imagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today's world as God's agents of justice, love, forgiveness, creativity and peace.

Join us, and find out how fun Bible Study can be! Your sisters in Christ, Pastor Susan and Pastor Judy

FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY - Sunday, October 27 at either the 8am or 10am worship service.

3rd Grade Bibles



CHURCH LIFE/FELLOWSHIP

CHANCEL CHOIR - calling all Musicians and Aspiring Musicians!

It's time to join your friends and make a joyful noise! The choir invites youth and adults of various musical ability to sing God's praise with us. Practices are every other Wednesday at 6:30, and our typical schedule has us singing for the traditional service every 4 weeks. The commitment is small, the rewards are many. Come join the choir family. Choir started on September 4th, at 6:30 in the Chapel!

JUBELLANCE - Please consider joining handbells! We are looking for more members. Our group is fun and supportive! Please stop after the traditional service sometime and/or call Jane Cabaya at 507-775-6183. We'd love to have you RINGING!

NEW MEMBER INFO -If you would like to become a member of CLC, we would like to welcome you. Please contact Pastor Susan or Pastor Judy if you are interested in membership. **New member informational meeting will be on Thursday, Nov 14 at 6pm starting with supper. We will receive new members on Sunday is November 17 at the 10am service**, with a cake reception for new members in the fellowship hall during coffee hour that day.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - Fellowship time starts at 9:05am with coffee and treats. If your last name begins with the letters T-Z, please provide a batch of cookies or bars during the month of October. Contact Sandy Erickson if you are willing to volunteer for coffee hour time.

FALL CLEAN UP - Please join the Building and Grounds Committee on Saturday, October 19 from 9am—noon for the fall church clean up. We will have inside and outside projects to complete. Contact Tom VanHeuklom for more information. Please bring your rakes.

KITCHEN FALL CLEAN UP - Saturday, October 19 starting at 9:30am.

THANK - YOU S

Dear CLC Youth Committee - Thank-you so very much for choosing me to be this year's recipient of the Youth Committee Scholarship! It has been so great growing up in this church, participating in the fun activities put on for the youth, and growing my faith with my peers. I have enjoyed going on the mission trips and will continue to spread the love of God. -Joshua Dickison

Dear friends at CLC - Thank you for your gift to Good Earth Village of \$500. Shaping and nurturing young hearts, minds, and spirits creates strong youth for a better world, Thank you for investing in a brighter future for all of us in the name of Jesus. God's peace, Good Earth Village

TRICK OR TREAT COSTUME PARTY

Sunday, October 27th from 5:30pm - 7pm at CLC

This free, fun event is a great way for us to welcome the community into CLC. The sign up sheet for door sponsors will be posted by Sunday, October 6th. The only requirement is to man a door and provide 150-200 pieces of candy. However; we encourage you to also join in the fun by dressing up and decorating your door.



Seen around CLC in September...



OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

BOOK CLUB - Our next Book Club gathering will be Tuesday, Oct. 1. We meet at 6:00 at church. On Oct 1, we will be discussing the book "I Capture the Castle" by Dodie Smith. Feel free to join us or contact Kristie Nelson (kin0312@gmail.com) or Ruth Ramsey (Auntierootie@gmail.com) if you have any questions. On Oct 1, our next book "Once Upon a River" by Diane Setterfield will be distributed.



QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - The CLC Quilting Sewing Group will resume meeting on October 12 from 9am - noon. We will continue working on the quilts we started last spring. Main tasks will be cutting fabric, sewing blocks, sandwiching quilt top, batting and backing finishing with binding. We can do either simple straight line machine quilting or tying. Contact is Chris Polzin at 1-507-269-7570 or email: mpolzin@frontiernet.net

MOVIE TIME - Please join us on Fridays, Oct 11 and Nov 15 at 6pm for a family friendly movie in our movie theater! We have a new screen and sound system! Movie titles will be posted on the kiosk, at the north door bulletin board, or on the movie room door.



CARD MAKING - All crafty ladies, gentlemen too, looking for a fun activity. Join in making cards for others. We meet the 3rd Friday of the month at church. 9 am-12 pm. Oct 18, Nov 15. We will not meet in Dec, then resume Jan 17, 2025. Contact Kari Prigge for more details.

MEALS ON WHEELS - We need additional volunteers! Please call Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 for details of how this program works in Byron. Time involves about 2 hrs everyday for one week of every 3rd month of a year, but no weekends.

CLC SHARING THE HOLIDAY SEASON 2024 - This year CLC Sharing tree will be collecting items for the Byron Food Pantry & Community Closet. The Sharing Tree will be put up mid-October.

The focus of the food pantry and community closet is to support our local community with donations of healthy food and household staples to ensure all families have what they need to learn and grow. A list of the items needed will be available on the Sharing Tree mid-October. You may donate needed items through Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.



JOY CLUB - JOY CLUB meets Oct 1 at Garden Market Platz at 11:30 am. Please meet at the church parking lot by 10:45 if you want to carpool. Hostesses for Oct are Diane Bisping and Elaine Faudskar.

BYRON FOOD SHELF - Did you know the Byron Food Shelf is operating again? It is located in the DACS building at 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Operating hours are: Mondays 10-11am, Wednesdays 9-11am and 12-2pm, and Thursdays 12-2pm. Request an appointment if you are unable to shop during drop in hours. 507-775-2336. We will send our blue barrel collections to the Byron food shelf the next time it is filled. Our blue barrel is currently empty so consider helping us fill it up!



FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD - 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, snacks and conversation, or a game or puzzle night, one time during the year. Your commitment is to host once, at your home, at a restaurant or coffee shop, or even at the church, 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 later October.



THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE AND CONVERSATION - NEW THIS FALL!!!

Please join us on Thursday mornings for coffee and conversation at 10am. No agenda, just a time to chat. Please join us starting on Thursday, October 3 and ongoing. Contact Gayle Jaben with questions.

STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 9/17/24, 6:30PM

The CLC Council meeting was held on Sept 17th, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Ashley Ebenhoh, Joe Biewer, Carol Smith, Randy Holz, Tom Tweite, Mark Turany and Pastor Susan

Members Absent: Tim Anderson, Joan Skare, Luke Brown, Dave Schlobohm, Josh Dickison, Allie Petersen Joys and Concerns.

Devotion and Prayer by Carol

Pastor's Lesson: Pastor Susan

Because we did not have a Quorum, there will be no voting, information only.

Joe presented the Treasurer's report. August income \$29,275.73, Expenses \$24,852.09

August income over expense was \$4,423.64, YTD +\$1,785.59 Great Job Congregation

Information/Discussion

Monthly Council Table for Oct will be Dave S.

Pastor gave an update on the Engagement team's progress. Look for surveys to come out mid Oct.

Please send them back ASAP so we can keep the process moving.

Call Committee Members will be announced at the Oct council meeting

Action Items

NO ACTION ITEMS

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15th, 2024 at 6:30pm

Submitted by Randy Holz, council secretary

SAMARITAN BETHANY - Samaritan Bethany is raising funds for a wheelchair van. If you would like to donate to this cause: www.samaritanbethany.com

LEFSE - If anyone is interested in leading the lefse sale, please let the office know or contact Joe Biewer for questions.

DISCOVERING GOD'S FUTURE - DISCOVERING OUR FUTURE - Come, join in the conversation as we discern God's future together! The Engagement Team invites you to take part in these activities as we listen, learn, share and imagine what we are called to be and do together as the body of Christ in Byron, Minnesota.

Please bring your insights and hopes to these upcoming events.

Timeline Experience (Oct 3): During coffee hour, learn about Christ Lutheran's rich history, and how God has worked through CLC to bless our community. How does our history shape our expectations for the future?

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2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE - Save the date for the Christmas Goodie Sale on Saturday, December 7th from 9-11am. Contact Sherri Biewer if you are willing to volunteer at this event.

WORSHIP AT CLC

- In-church worship at 8am, traditional style and 10am contemporary style
- communion offered the 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 in a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) dropping off a donation 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 \$32 in September 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

October 2024



Worship Times

8am Traditional Worship
 10am Contemporary Worship
 LiveStream Worship
Communion is the 1st and 3rd Sundays



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastors can be reached by office phone 775-6646 or
 Pastor Susan 507-254-9875 or clcpastorsusan@gmail.com
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or peacejudy@hotmail.com
 President, Mark Turany 507-259-3820 or mturany@charter.net

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Congregational Survey (Mid-October): We want to hear from you!

“Play It Forward” (Oct 29) - Come for coffee between services and join in a simple game designed to help us understand ourselves better as a congregation.

“Who Is My Neighbor?” (Nov 3) - Al Roder, City Administrator, will provide insight into the trends expected to impact Byron and SE Minnesota’s future. How will we as a church be bearers of God’s grace in a changing community?

November 10 - Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry will share the many ways our synod and the ELCA are embodying the hope of Christ in real and tangible ways, with partners here and abroad.

Small Groups - Take part in a relaxed conversation about our life and ministries. We want to hear from you! The Spirit works through our sharing.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Sue Hoenk, Aaron Stolp, Charlie Finley, Al Ronnenberg, Chuck Bayuk, Joan Skare and Ed Korbel.

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

July 2024 Avg	115
July 2023 Avg	109
Aug 2024 Avg	121
Aug 2023 Avg	143
9/1/24	98
9/8/24	188
9/15/24	207
9/22/24	185
9/29/24	no data yet
Sept 2024 Avg	170
Sept 2023 Avg	201

