



November
2024

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

Every day is Thanksgiving for Christians, who live by faith. Still, it is good for us as a community to stop and reflect together on how blessed we truly are. Thanksgiving is our nationwide recognition that the health, well-being and abundance we enjoy comes to us as a gift from God. And so we give God thanks and praise.

We express our gratitude not only for past blessings, and the gift of each day, but also because in Christ, our future is assured. The colonists who celebrated the “first” Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts were not celebrating abundance, but simply survival, for many of their number had died that first year after they settled there. They gathered to recognize the blessing of God’s providential care and provision, for it is God who upholds us, in good times and in struggle.

Much of the joy of Thanksgiving is traditionally found in gathering around the table with those we love, remembering God’s faithfulness, and the blessing of family and friends. We are thankful for the gift of belonging. We are thankful for the gift of relationships, with God and with each other. We miss those loved ones who cannot be with us.

I am reminded that Jesus gives us an image and promise of the heavenly kingdom as a feast, where all God’s people are gathered in, for a feast and celebration, praising and giving thanks to God. In the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22, the master tells his servant, “Go into the main streets, and invite **everyone** you find to the wedding banquet.” And so they do, bringing in “all whom they found, both good and bad; so that the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

God desires to gather us and to bless us. God provides what we need, and more. We respond with thanks and praise, as we take our place at the table of grace. **Who else might we invite to God’s banquet?** It is a party not to be missed; and everyone is invited and welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving! Thanks be to God. Pastor Susan

ENGAGEMENT TEAM ACTIVITIES - Timeline Experience - Add your thoughts anytime to our timeline in the fellowship hall. Congregational Survey - Paper copies are available in the entry or electronically, through the link in the weekly email.

“**Who Is My Neighbor?**” (Nov 3) - Al Roder, City Administrator, will provide insight into the trends expected to impact Byron and SE MN’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 will present during coffee hour.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR 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:

11/3 - A Message from God - Deuteronomy 6:1-9

11/10 - The Widow's Offering - Mark 12:38-44

11/17 - Be Ready - Mark 13:1-8

11/24 - Christ the King - John 18:33-37

We are starting preparations for our Christmas Program!

Starting on 11/3 those with speaking roles in the Christmas Program will be practicing their parts every Sunday during Sunday school. They will be given their lines to practice at home as well so please encourage them to practice often so they will be prepared for the program.

There will also be a rehearsal on Saturday 12/7 (time TBD) for speaking parts only. Dress rehearsal for the cast of the program will be during Sunday school on 12/8 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 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 considering booking more spots. Please communicate by November 3 with the office if your student would like to attend, as we consider adding a second van. The trip is open to students completing 8th - 12th grade in 2025. Registration forms are on the kiosk. Total trip cost to families is \$375 (total per student cost is about \$650). Payment 1 due Nov 15, \$150; payment 2 due Jan 15, \$125; payment 3 due Mar 15, \$100. Scholarships are available, speak with Pastor Susan privately.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - OCTOBER

Hard to believe we are two months into confirmation already! We are learning about the Old Testament and stories from Genesis. A few updates below.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend Parents' Night! It was wonderful to enjoy an evening with the students and parents. Thank you for all the students (and parents) who helped at Church Clean Up and the Halloween Trick or Treat event.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing is coming up. You are able to reserve spots now via the Salvation Army Bell Ringing link. If interested, please coordinate with your family, friends, and/or confirmation classmates to sign up for a time. We will not be reserving slots this year for sign-up and instead are asking parents to sign their child up for a time that works for their family. (Some confirmation classrooms may be coordinating with each other.)

Operation Christmas Child is a great service project your student could do solo with you or coordinate with a group. Please watch the confirmation update email for more details. Information on the program is here: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>
Christmas Service Volunteers needed! Please consider signing up your confirmation student to help with acolyting at one of the Christmas Eve services if you plan to attend worship on Christmas Eve. Look for a sign-up sheet in the entry.

Please watch the weekly emails for more information on upcoming service projects. Thank you! Tina Jordahl, Confirmation Coordinator

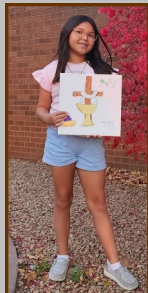
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

This fall, we are studying Brian McClaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking". This book explores what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today."

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

First Communion



CHURCH LIFE/WORSHIP

CHANCEL CHOIR - 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. Please join us!

JUBELLANCE - Please consider joining hanbells! We are looking for more members. Our group is fun and supportive! Please contact Jane Cabaya at 507-775-6183 with questions.

NEW MEMBER INFO -If you would like to become a member of CLC, we wish 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, November 17 at the 10am service, with a cake reception in the fellowship hall during the 9am coffee hour that day.**

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

IT'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA TIME! Do you love to sing but aren't ready to join the choir full time? Join us for our Christmas Cantata this year! We're going to "Go Sing it on the Mountain". Join us **when you can** for practice in the chapel: Wednesdays November 13th, November 27th and December 11th at 6:30 PM and every Saturday, November 2nd through December 14th at 9 AM. We'll present the cantata at both services on December 15th. We'd love to have you join us to sing and celebrate God's precious gift to us, His Son, Jesus!

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED - Please contact Sarah Johnson if you are interested in being on the Stewardship Committee.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 3, 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.

OFFERING STATS

QCD Donations YTD Oct 2024 \$37,600

Electronic Donations YTD Sept 2023 \$65,000+

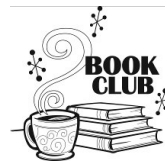
Your giving makes our ministries possible. Your giving is an expression of your love for God and neighbor.

Seen around CLC in November...



OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

BOOK CLUB - Our next Book Club gathering will be **MONDAY, NOV 4** at 6pm at church. We will be discussing the book "Once Upon A River" by Diane Setterfield. Feel free to join us or contact Kristie Nelson (kjn0312@gmail.com) or Ruth Ramsey (Auntierootie@gmail.com) if you have any questions. At that meeting, our next book "Women Rowing North" by Mary Pipher will be distributed.



QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - Please note the date change for November!

The CLC Quilting/Sewing Group will meet on **Friday, November 1** from 9am - noon. We will continue working on the quilts we started last spring. Main tasks will be 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 507-269-7570 or email: mpolzin@frontiernet.net

MOVIE TIME - Please join us on Friday, 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, Nov 15 and Jan 17. We will not meet in Dec. Contact Kari Prigge for more details.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Meals On Wheels will be delivered to community members weekly in Dec from Mon - Fri, no weekends or holidays, by CLC members. Additional volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sandy Erickson. Thank you for helping with this worthwhile project.

JOY CLUB - JOY CLUB meets Nov 12 at 10:30 in the fellowship hall of CLC. Hostesses are Toni Hunter and Sandy Erickson.

BYRON FOOD SHELF - 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. CLC now sends our blue barrel collections to the Byron food shelf.



THANK -YOU to Ben Schneider for the many hours spent replacing the parking lot lights.



TIME CHANGE - Set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, Nov 3.

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

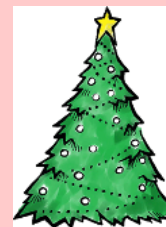
THE SHARING TREE FOR 2024

We are collecting items for the Byron Food Pantry & Community Closet.

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.

Copies of the items needed are available on the Sharing Tree as well as listed below.

Boxed whole grain kid friendly cereal, whole grain crackers, canned beans (kidney, black etc.); Easy dinners: canned stews, chili, hamburger helper, scalloped potatoes, Rice a roni, flavored noodles, mac and cheese, Jello, peanut butter, nut butters, jelly/jams, hot chocolate packets, canned chicken, spaghetti or alfredo sauce, tomato sauces, whole grain pastas, and taco kits; Condiments like ketchup, soy sauce, bbq sauce, and mustard. Salad dressings; Kid snacks such as fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bars, cereal bars, fruit snacks, applesauce, crackers and popcorn; Herbs and spices, Olive oil, Canola oil; Teas and coffee; Personal care items, shampoos, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, First Aid band aids; Laundry/kitchen supplies; detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers.



You may donate needed items through Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity. -Altar Committee

STEWARDSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 10/15/24, 6:30PM

This was an informational meeting only. We did not have a Quorum for an official meeting.

Members present: Mark Turany, Tom Tweite, Randy Holz, Tim Anderson, and Luke Brown

Members Absent: Joan Skare, Josh Dickison, Allie Petersen, Carol Smith, Dave Schlobohm, Pastor Susan, Ashley Ebenhoh, Joe Biewer

Joys and Concerns

Randy presented the Treasurer's report. Sept income over expenses + \$684, YTD +\$2,470. Thank you all!

Information/Discussion - Monthly Council Table for Nov will be Mark and Randy

Mark announced the names of the Call Committee: Amy Blank, Jason Pfeilsticker, Tom Tweite, Matt Petersen, Sherri Biewer, Evonne Schlobohm, 2 Youth to be announced. Thank You to everyone for coming forward and volunteering.

Action Items - There were no action items. The next meeting will be Nov 19th, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Randy Holz, council secretary

COMMITMENT SUNDAY - Nov 17 - 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 2025, 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.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATIONS - At age 70 1/2 and older, individuals may distribute tax-free up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing tax returns. An added benefit is this method of giving reduces gross income for the calculation determining the amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxable.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE - These are exciting times at Christ Lutheran Church, as we look forward to welcoming a new pastor in the new year. Energizing programs are underway. We enjoy a vibrant community together, as we worship, serve, and share our lives together. God is active in our midst!

In gratitude for God's blessings, we ask that you make a financial pledge to assure we will have all of the resources needed to continue the life-giving ministries we value in 2025. Your commitment enables us to plan with confidence that, through your support, God will provide all that is needed to make possible the ministries we are called to be about.

As stewards of God's blessings, please prayerfully consider what you can give, so that God's love and grace may be made known through Christ Lutheran Church, in Byron and beyond!

Please return pledge cards and Time & Talent sheets to the office or bring to worship on Commitment Sunday, Nov 17. We will ask God's blessing as we dedicate our intentions to God's purposes and work.



2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

WORSHIP AT CLC

- In-church worship at 8am, traditional style and 10am contemporary style
- 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 a donation to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) drop off a donation during church services or office hours.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

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

November 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

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, Mark Turany, 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)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES Christ Lutheran will have 3 Christmas services with communion on December 24: 3pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm. 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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Order forms will be available in later November.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Sue Hoenk, Aaron Stolp, Charlie Finley, Al Ronnenberg, Joan Skare, Julie Carlblom and Jerry Rieser.

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

Aug 2024 Avg	143
Aug 2023 Avg	112
Sept 2024 Avg	164
Sept 2023 Avg	201
10/6/24	169
10/13/24	212
10/20/24	156
10/27/24	233
Oct 2024 Avg	193
Oct 2023 Avg	215

