



**December
2024**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid." Luke 1:28-30

Welcome to Advent! As the season of reflection begins, the message of our culture is to hurry, to rush, to get ready for all the cooking and baking, and present wrapping and partying that is to come. Hurry, before that coveted toy sells out. Hurry to get the lowest prices on all the presents you "need" to buy. Hurry, get the tree decorated and the lights up before company arrives. In contrast, the message of scripture is to slow down, to pray and to praise God, and to wait.

When Mary receives the shocking news that she will become pregnant and will bear a child who will be called "The Son of God", she goes on retreat to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, whose husband Zechariah was a priest at the temple.

Mary spent time with her cousin, a faithful woman, reflecting on what this could mean. God was doing something entirely new, and God had called her to be a part of it, even though God's plan was most likely not

what she would have chosen. She would no doubt be open to criticism and gossip. When Mary returned home many weeks later, she was committed to live out the role of "God-bearer" to the best of her ability, trusting God's word that she had been chosen to bring blessing to the world, and in that she would be blessed.

I hope that in the busy-ness of this Advent season, you are able to take time for retreat, and for worship, to reflect on what it means that Jesus has come to you. I hope that you are able to give thanks that, while God may have worked in your own life in ways you didn't expect, God has chosen you to bring blessing to the world, as Christ lives in you. In this, may you be blessed.

You are a gift of God, as you bear Christ to the world. In everyday acts of love, and through your kind and gracious words, you are a "God-bearer", too. May you experience joy and peace this Christmas, for Christ has come, in the flesh, to show us the depth of God's great love.

Merry Christmas! -Pastor Susan

ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE - The Engagement Team thanks everyone for your participation in our self-study activities. We have appreciated hearing your thoughts on who we are, what we value most, and what you hope for the future of Christ Lutheran Church, Byron. The team is currently working on completing the Ministry Site Profile, which is the form the ELCA uses to introduce congregations to potential pastors. It is a lengthy form, designed to help pastors discern whether CLC might be a congregation they are called to serve. There is information about our community, as well as our ministry, mission, vision for the future, and goals. **Cont. on page 3**



Susan Li
Interim Senior
Pastor
clcpastorsusan@gmail.com



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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR DECEMBER

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 December will be:

- 12/1 - No Sunday School - Happy Thanksgiving!
- 12/8 - Zechariah - Luke 1:68-79
- 12/15 - Christmas Lesson - Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-20
- 12/22 - No Sunday School - Merry Christmas!
- 12/29 - No Sunday School - Happy New Year!

There will be rehearsal for those with speaking parts in the Christmas Program on Friday 12/6 at 5:30pm (**this is different from what is on the Sunday School schedule** due to the basketball tournament on Saturday). The final Christmas Program rehearsal will be on 12/8 during Sunday School from 9:05-9:55. **The Christmas Program will be during the 10 AM service on 12/8.**

Offering collected during Sunday School and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through June will go to Lutheran Disaster Relief 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/

SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM MUSIC PRACTICE -

There is NO Sunday School on Dec 1, but Stephanie Pfaffenbach will be available to practice music with the kids for the Christmas Program. It would be helpful to have as many kids present as possible!

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Pastors Susan & Judy invite you to attend our Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10am. We are studying Brian McClaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking".

YOUTH EVENTS IN DECEMBER***Caroling/Bingo at Madonna Summit***

Please join us on Wednesday, December 18 at 7pm at Madonna Summit for caroling and to play bingo with the residents. All kids aged 9th grade on up are welcomed to join us!

Youth Game Night

All youth from 7th - 12th grade and college kids are welcomed to join the Youth Group on Sunday, December 29 at 6pm in the fellowship hall for pizza and games or a puzzle competition.

CONFIRMATION NEWS - DECEMBER

We continue covering the Old Testament and ended November with The 10 Commandments. We are also working with the 8th grade students to pick out a confirmation bible verse. If you have a confirmation student in your life, talk with them about your confirmation verse or other favorite bible verses that help guide and affirm your faith journey.

Christmas Service Volunteers needed: Please consider signing up your confirmation student to help with one of the Christmas Eve services. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Entry.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing. You are able to reserve spots now via the Salvation Army Bell Ringing link. <https://www.registertoring.com/> 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.

Thanks! Tina, Confirmation Coordinator

WINTER BLAST AT CAMP VICTORY

Jan 24 to Jan 26, \$170

Open to grades 3-9. Join us for a Winter Blast! Going flying down our tubing hill, challenge your friends in a game of laser tag, and compete in our annual Frigid-a-Rod! www.campvictory.com

MISSION TRIP - KANSAS CITY, MO

June 22-27, 2025 - The Mission Trip spots are all filled, so we are adding an additional vehicle. Currently we have 19 kids attending, but could add a couple more if interest is there. Please communicate with the office if your student would like to attend. 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 was due Nov 15, \$150**; payment 2 is due Jan 15, \$125; payment 3 is due Mar 15, \$100. Scholarships are available, speak with Pastor Susan privately.

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.

CHURCH LIFE/WORSHIP

IT'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA 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: Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 PM and every Saturday through December 14th at 9 AM. We'll present the cantata at both services on December 15th.

ADVENT CANDLE READINGS - Please consider signing up for advent readings during the Sunday services in December. The sign up sheet is on the table outside of the office.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - Luther Seminary is offering an Advent devotional called "Joy of Heaven, Here on Earth". If you want a copy printed for you, contact Elaine in the office.

www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, February 2, 2025

All active, confirmed members of Christ Lutheran are encouraged to attend and be a part of the decision making process of our church. Questions regarding the meeting may be addressed to any church council member. Watch for a council table to answer questions in January.

ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES - Please submit your committee reports for the annual report, to the church office by Monday, January 6, 2025.

Continued from page 1 - Engagement Team Meeting

Your input, via the congregational survey, small group conversations, the timeline, and speakers Al Roder and Kathy Chatelaine, is helpful in completing the form. Once it is complete, the Congregation Council will review it and offer any suggestions they have. This will happen in January. If everything goes as planned, we will present the Ministry Site Profile to the whole congregation at the annual meeting in February, to share with you what you have shared with us, as well as what we will share with pastor candidates.

Rev. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop for the call process, will join us for the presentation, provide information on the call process, answer your questions, and meet with the Call Committee to orient them to their work. At that point, the interview process begins!

Please continue to pray for this process, for the next pastor God will call to be a partner in ministry with you here, and for an openness to the Spirit's leading through it all. God is at work, calling us to faithful service and loving community, as we bear witness to God's expansive grace in all we do.
-Pastor Susan, for the Engagement Team

CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE - CLC will host its annual Christmas Bake Sale on December 7th in the Entry. We are asking each family please provide a batch of their favorite Christmas baked goods. Drop off times are Friday, Dec 6 from 4-6pm and Saturday, Dec 7 from 8-9am. Please invite your friends and family to come on **Saturday, December 7th from 9am-11am** to pick out their favorite treats and support our bake sale. If you are interested in helping, contact Sherri Biewer at 701-261-9110 or sdathe@hotmail.com or sign up on the sheet on the kiosk.



Recently seen around CLC...



OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

BOOK CLUB - Our next Book Club gathering will be Tuesday, December 3 at 6pm at church. We will be discussing the book "Women Rowing North" by Mary Pipher. 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 "Lies My Teacher Told Me" by James Loewen will be distributed.



MOVIE TIME - Please join us on Friday, December 20 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. Popcorn will be provided, but bring your own beverage. All are welcome!



CARD MAKING - All crafty ladies, gentlemen too, looking for a fun activity. Join us in making cards for others. We meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at church from 9 am-12 pm. We will not meet in Dec. but please join us on January 17 for our next event. Contact Kari Prigge for more details.

MEALS ON WHEELS - Christ Lutheran Church delivers meals to community neighbors during the month of December. Extra helpers are always welcomed. Contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 if anyone would like to volunteer with this program in our community. Thank you to all who have helped in the past and who currently help. The neighbors appreciate this help.

JOY CLUB - JOY CLUB meets Tuesday, Dec 10 at 11:30am in the room next to the kitchen. It is our annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon. A white elephant gift to pass around would be appreciated. If anyone is available to help set up, please let Carol Smith know. Looking forward to good food and great fun.

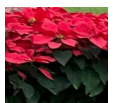
BYRON FOOD SHELF - It is located in the DACS building at 630 1st Ave NW, Byron.

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.



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 December. Contact Sandy Erickson if you are willing to volunteer for coffee hour time.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - Poinsettia order forms are located on the table by the office. Cost is \$13/plant. You can order either red, white, or red/white combo plants in honor of or in memory of. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service you attend. Order deadline is Dec 8.



2024 COMMUNION REGISTRATION - Register once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table.

THE SHARING TREE FOR 2024 - DONATIONS COLLECTED THROUGH SUNDAY, DEC 15

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.

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



STEWARDSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING 11/19/24, 6:30PM

Called to order at 6:30 pm

Joys and Concerns

Members present: Mark Turany, Tom Tweite, Randy Holz, Tim Anderson, Luke Brown, Carol Smith, Dave Schlobohm, Ashley Ebenhoh, Joe Biewer and Pastor Susan; Members Absent: Josh Dickison, Allie Petersen

Joys and Concerns

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Dave and 2nd by Tom; Motion Passed

No Minutes from Oct to approve

Joe presented the Treasurer's report. Oct income over expenses (\$10,889), YTD (\$8,420)

Information/Discussion

Monthly Council Table for Dec will be Carol and Tim.

Pastor Reported on the progress of the Engagement team and feels they should be ready with the CLC Profile presentation by the Annual Meeting in February.

Kiosk: where can we put the Kiosk so it is accessible but out of the line of sight for the welcome center to be seen by visitors coming in front door.

Annual Meeting is set for Sunday February 2, 2025 time will be announced.

The nominating committee for 3 adult and 2 youth open seats on council will consist of Mark, Dave, and Pastor Susan.

Committee Chairs: Please be thinking of your needs for committee helpers.

Action Items

There were no action items.

Motion was made to adjourn by Luke and 2nd by Tim; Motion Passed

The next meeting will be December 17th 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Randy Holz, council secretary

DECEMBER DATES

Sat, Dec 7, 9-11am - Christmas Goodie Sale

Sun, Dec 8, 10am - SS Christmas Program

Tue, Dec 10, 11:30am - JOY Group Christmas Potluck

Sun, Dec 15, 8am & 10am - Christmas Cantata

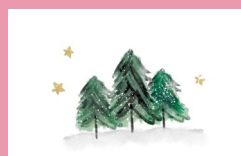
Wed, Dec 18, 7pm - Youth Group Caroling - Madonna

Fri, Dec 20, 1pm - Chancel Choir sings at Madonna

Tue, Dec 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, 7pm - Christmas Eve Worship

Sun, Dec 29, 9am - One worship service

Sun, Dec 29, 6pm - Youth Group Pizza/Game Night



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.

NON-MEMBER DONATION STATEMENTS OR ENVELOPES

- If you are a non-member that gives donations to CLC and would like a donation statement or regular envelopes, please contact the office.

PLEDGE CARDS AND TIME & TALENTS -

(Volunteer Opportunities) can be left in the offering plates through Dec 24. Or update online at www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/

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.

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 \$150 in November 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

December 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 CLC will have three Christmas services with communion on December 24: 3pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm. The services will feature candlelight, carols, and the Christmas story. We need volunteers at each service: acolytes, communion helpers, readers, ushers, hosts, and projector volunteers. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please use the sign up sheet on the table outside the office. **Offering plates will be passed.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Sue Hoenk, Aaron Stolp, Charlie Finley, Al Ronnenberg, 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

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Sept 2024 Avg | 164 |
| Sept 2023 Avg | 201 |
| Oct 2024 Avg | 193 |
| Oct 2023 Avg | 215 |
| 11/3/24 | 193 |
| 11/10/24 | 176 |
| 11/17/24 | 197 |
| 11/24/24 | 159 |
| Nov 2024 Avg | 181 |
| Nov 2023 Avg | 203 |



2024 DONATIONS - All donations for 2024 need to be turned in to the office by Monday, Dec. 30, 2024.