



**PASTOR’S MESSAGE - REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SUSAN**

“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

Happy New Year! What lies ahead? A new year brings a new beginning and new possibilities. I love new beginnings! As I look at my new 2025 calendar, I give thanks for the blank pages yet to be filled. I wonder what the year will bring. Each day is a process of discovery, in our lives and in our church.

We can begin each day in the new year by asking, “What is God up to today?” “What part do I have to play in that?” I’ve been focused on details recently, including the joy of planning Advent and Christmas worship, teaching confirmation, and working with the Engagement Team. Still, I try to remember that God continually invites us to keep the big picture in mind. As the psalmist prays, so should we, “Lord, teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.” (Psalm 119:12). I understand that to mean, “Lord, give us an appreciation for the fact that each day is a precious gift from you, and help us to keep your bigger picture in view.” Taking the long view helps us to keep the daily tasks and details in perspective.

This is true for congregations as well as individuals. The interim time is a time for examining the details of our ministry and, perhaps more importantly, considering the long view of what God is calling us to be and do as Christ Lutheran Church, Byron, now and in the future. How will we be the church in a changing world? We look forward to the arrival of a new pastor in the coming year. Please continue to pray for the call process, as the Engagement Team finalizes the Ministry Site Profile this month, the council approves it, and the call committee begins it’s work in February. Pray that through all of our reflection and planning, God is working to bring forward the new pastor God is calling to be a partner with you in God’s mission in this time and place.

May the new year bring you God’s peace and joy. No matter what lies ahead, we know that God is with us in each day. We trust that God’s desire is to bless us, and that we may be a blessing to others. Thanks be to God, Emmanuel, for the gift of a new year!

Grace and peace, Pastor Susan

P.S. Mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2025. The Engagement Team will present the Ministry Site Profile to the congregation for your information and response. Rev. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop, will be with us in worship, and will explain and answer any questions about the call process. She will meet with the call committee and orient them to their work, and they will begin the interview process.

**ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY - Sunday, Feb 16, 2025, time and location TBA.**

	<p>Susan Li Interim Senior Pastor clcpastorsusan@gmail.com</p>		<p>Judy Thompson-Reitz Interim Part Time Pastor peacejudy@hotmail.com</p>
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## PASTOR MESSAGE/MISC

### DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Well, the "Holidays" are over for another year. The gifts opened, the Christmas dinners eaten, the cards sent (or not...) and perhaps by now you even have your tree down. In the dark winter days of January, the Holiday Spirit can sometimes seem to disappear as the realities of life return, and our old routines resume.

But for those in Christ, the blessed revelation comes again and again- EMMANUEL!!! God is with us now! The greatest Love story ever told begins anew each and every day of our lives. Christ the Savior is Born, and though it can seem as if nothing has changed, everything is different. Seen through eyes of faith, we do both perceive and bear witness to the breaking in of the reign of the Prince of Peace. As one of my favorite Christmas Hymns declares: "His way is peace and freedom and justice, truth and love." We have been called to both proclaim and work for this way. New ways of seeing and being in this world can change "the way it always has been". We have been given a new way to live which ushers in life, hope and peace, not just for us, but for all of God's Children. As one author puts it:

*"Love God, love others. ALL others. Everything else in the Bible flows from these two commandments.*

*Jesus brilliantly simplified and explained what we are to do.*

*Everything else is just commentary on how we can love God and those around us.*

*That is what we are called to do. These are our marching orders."*

As the dark days of winter continue, by the power of the Holy Spirit we see a Light that shines, more brightly in the darkness. We are infused with a hope beyond all human hope, and are given a vision of a world where all nurtured, loved and safe. Our lives have purpose and meaning, for by God's grace we live and move and have our being. We are called to share that love and grace with

all of God's world!  
I close with a verse from a favorite hymn:

*"Take heart, take heart, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,*

*the rising sun will crown us with light*

*Be Strong and loving and fearless*

*Love be our token, Love our prayer*

*Love our endless story*

*May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory!"*

*(from the hymn "Awake, Awake and Greet the Morn")*

May we give only love, all of our days. God's grace and peace are yours in Christ, our Lord,  
Pastor Judy

### CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS TO THE SHUT-INS

Thank-you to our creative quilting members for making lap blankets for our shut-ins this Christmas!

Work has been going on all year producing the beautiful blankets.

Youth Group Playing Bingo at Madonna Summit & Caroling



### 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.



# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR JANUARY

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

The lessons for January will be:

1/5 - Jesus the World - John 1:10-18

1/12 - Jesus' Baptism - Luke 3:15-17

1/19 - Wedding at Cana - John 2:1-11

1/26 - Jesus Goes to Nazareth - Luke 4:14-30

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/](http://www.clcbyron.org/Sunday-school/)

## 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".

## MISSION TRIP - KANSAS CITY, MO

June 22-27, 2025 - The spots are filled, and we added an additional vehicle. 19 kids are registered, but could add a couple more if interest is there. Registration forms are on the kiosk. Total trip cost to families is \$375 (total per student cost is about \$650). **payment 2 is due Jan 15, \$125; payment 3 is due Mar 15, \$100.** Scholarships are available, speak with Pastor Susan privately.

## CONFIRMATION NEWS - JANUARY

Thanks! Tina, Confirmation Coordinatorxxxxxxxxx

## WINTER BLAST AT CAMP VICTORY

Jan 24 - Jan 26, \$170 grades 3-9

Go 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](http://www.campvictory.com)

## 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.

## ROCHESTER TEEN GOSPEL CHOIR

Rehearsals start in February with a May concert. No auditions, anyone can attend, free event. [Teenhopeministries.org](http://Teenhopeministries.org)

## PIZZA & PUZZLING

The education committee will be hosting the very popular pizza and puzzle contest this winter. Please watch for the date and sign up info.

**EPHIPHANY'S SIGNIFICANCE** The church season of Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. The name comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "to appear, to show or to manifest." The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter. Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by Gentiles, or non-Jews.



## CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

**BOOK CLUB** - Our next Book Club gathering will be Tuesday, January 7 at 6pm at church. We will be discussing the book "Lies My Teacher Told Me" by James Loewen. Please join us or contact Kristie Nelson ([kjin0312@gmail.com](mailto:kjn0312@gmail.com)) or Ruth Ramsey ([Auntierootie@gmail.com](mailto:Auntierootie@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. At that meeting, our next book "The Gifted School" by Bruce Holsinger, will be distributed.

**MOVIE TIME** - Please join us on Friday, xxxxxat 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!

### THANK-YOU!

Thank-you to everyone who supported the bake sale last weekend. We couldn't have done this without the volunteers and appreciate those who brought baked goods and helped with the bake sale. We raised over \$1,500 at the bake sale for the parking lot fund. Thank-you!!!!



**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, January 17 is our next event. Contact Kari Prigge for info.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - Extra helpers are always welcomed. Contact Sandy Erickson at 507-259-2321 if you would like to volunteer.

**JOY CLUB** - We don't meet in Jan and Feb. See you on March 11!

### 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 E-H, please provide a batch of cookies or bars during the month of January. Contact Sandy Erickson if you are willing to volunteer for coffee hour time.

### BEGINNER QUILTING/SEWING GROUP

The Quilting group will meet Sat, Jan 13, 2024 from 9 until noon. Contact Chris Polzin with questions at 507-269-7579 or [mpolzin@frontiernet.net](mailto:mpolzin@frontiernet.net)

**KITCHEN HELPERS** - The new list of helpers who will be helping for coffee time between services on Sundays January thru May 2025, will be distributed the week of New Years Day. Thank you to all who have helped in the past. Contact Sandy Erickson with any questions.

### 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, Feb 9.

Recently seen around CLC...



## STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

### CLC COUNCIL MEETING 12/17/24, 6:30PM

Called to order at 6:30 pm

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

Members Absent: Tim Anderson

Joys and Concerns

Devotions: By Carol Smith

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Joe and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Luke; Motion Passed

Approval of last month's minutes: Motion made by Joe seconded by Luke; Motion Passed

Joe presented the Treasurer's report. November income/expenses: -\$2,284, YTD -\$10,705. Hopefully we can catch up in December.

#### Information/Discussion

Council is looking into developing a Technology committee.

Pastor Reported on the progress of the Engagement team. The Church Profile will be presented to the council at the Jan 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Then to the congregation after the annual meeting on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025.

Annual meeting is scheduled for Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

Nominating committee is starting to fill ballot for 3 council seats, and 3 stewardship committee members.

Committees are reminded to submit new names for the ballot for their respective committees.

Joe reviewed the 2025 Budget proposal

#### Action Items:

Approval of updated job descriptions for General Music Director and the Contemporary Service Music Director. Motion to approve made by Joe second by Carol.

Motion Passed.

Motion made to adjourn: made by Luke second by Carol. Motion Passed

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Randy Holz, council secretary

### 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.

### 2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

**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.

**TIME & TALENTS** (Volunteer Opportunities) can be left in the offering plates or update online at [www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/](http://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.

**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 \$80 in December in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

### 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

**January 2025**



**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)

**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.



**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**

Oct 2024 Avg	193
Oct 2023 Avg	215
Nov 2024 Avg	181
Nov 2023 Avg	203
12/1/24	189
12/8/24	286
12/15/24 - icy roads	149
12/22/24	
12/24/24	
12/29/24	
Dec 2024 Avg	
Dec 2023 Avg	295

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