



**LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT: “OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS” 2 CORINTHIANS 6:13**

The season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 5**. Our Ash Wednesday service will include the imposition of ashes. On the Wednesday evenings, we look forward to gathering for soup suppers, warm fellowship, and “spiritual food” in worship with the beloved **Holden Evening Prayer** service. We will enter the story of **Jonah**, the reluctant prophet, who discovers that you can run, but you cannot hide, from the patient, persistent love of God. Jonah is a “whale of a tale” with deep truths about ourselves, God, and loving our enemies. It is also one of the most humorous books of the bible. Please plan to enjoy this Lenten journey as we enter a season of devotion and discovery together.

**PASTOR’S MESSAGE - PASTOR JUDY**

Dear Friends in Christ, One of my favorite teachers from Luther Seminary, Dr. David Lose, once wrote an article about why on earth we Lutherans should continue to observe the season of Lent in the Church. He notes that some denominations have just done away with the Lenten season entirely. After commenting on how counter-cultural Lent is, Dr. Lose lifts up some thoughts about Lent. His words really spoke to me and I want to share some of them with you, in case you might also be wondering why we continue to observe the Season of Lent:

“Who needs Lent? You know what? Each year, whatever my feelings approaching Lent may be, the same answer comes whispering back: **I do**. Just maybe...I need Lent. Just maybe, I need a time to focus, to get my mind off of **my** career, **my** social life, **my** next writing project - and a hundred other things to which I look for meaning - and center myself in **Meaning** itself...

Just maybe I need a time - is forty days really enough? - to help clear my head of the distractions which any involved life in this world will necessarily bring and re-orient myself towards the Maker of all that was given freely for me and which I have let become merely distracting.

Maybe I need the opportunity - and perhaps deep down I crave the chance! - to clear my eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy which comes from situation after situation where I feel nearly helpless, so that I can fasten my eyes once more on the almost unbearable revelation of the God who loves God's children enough to take the form of a man hanging on a Cross.

And maybe, just maybe - and this takes the greatest amount of imagination of them all - just maybe Lent really isn't mine to do with whatever I please. Perhaps Lent isn't even the Church's, to insist upon or discard at will. Maybe Lent isn't any of ours, to scoff at or observe. Maybe Lent is God's. Maybe Lent is God's gift to a people starved for meaning, for courage, for comfort, for life. If it is - if we can imagine that Lent is not ours at all but is wholly God's - then maybe we'll also begin to recall, at first vaguely but then more strongly, that we, too, are not ours at all, but are wholly God's - God's own possession and treasure. Continued on page 2...

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## PASTOR MESSAGE/LENT INFO

### PASTOR MESSAGE, cont. from p1

Seen this way, Lent reminds us of whose we are. The "sacrifices," the disciplines, these are not intended as good works offered by us to God; rather, they are God's gifts to us to remind us who we are, God's adopted daughters and sons, God's treasure, so priceless that God was willing to go to any length - or, more appropriately, to any depth - to tell us that we are loved, that we have value, that we have purpose.

Yes. I need Lent. I need an absence of gifts so that I might acknowledge **The Gift**. I need a time to be quiet and still, a time to crane my neck and lift my head, straining to hear again what was promised me at Baptism: "You are mine! I love you! I am with you!" I need Lent, finally, to remind me of who I am - God's heir and Christ's co-heir - so that, come Easter, I can rejoice and celebrate with all the joy, all the revelry, all the anticipation, of a true heir to the Kingdom.

And so yes, I need Lent. And to tell you the truth, I suspect that you do, too. You see, if Lent's in trouble, it's only because we're in trouble, so busy trying to make or keep or save our lives that we fail to notice that God has already saved us and has already freed us to live with each other and for each other all the rest of our days. And so we have Lent, a gift of the Church, the season during which God prepares us to behold God's own great sacrifice for us, with the hope and prayer that, come Good Friday and Easter, we may be immersed once again into God's mercy and perceive more fully God's great love for us and all the world and in this way find the peace and hope and freedom that we so often lack."

I need Lent, my brothers and sisters. I think we all do. It is so easy to forget the Living God to whom we all belong, and what God in Christ has done. Holy Week is just around the corner, and I pray that we join together on our Lenten journey through the darkest of days, as we travel from death to the new life in Christ which shines forth from that empty tomb!

Your Sister in Christ, Pastor Judy +

### LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The soup suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and will continue weekly on Wednesdays through April 9. The soup suppers are a free will offering.

These groups will prepare our Soup Suppers:

<b>March 5</b>	<b>Worship/Music + Musicians</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Education &amp; Altar Committees</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Memorial &amp; Building/Grounds</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Youth &amp; Stewardship</b>

If you find that you do not have enough members in your group that are able to donate soup or bars, please let Julie Carlblom know. We have a list of volunteers who have offered to help.

Please assign members of your group to bring:

**7 containers of soup, 5 quarts or more**  
**7 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, bring by noon; if hot, by 4PM.)

The confirmation classes will do the set up and clean up. In return, the money raised will help support the youth to attend summer Bible camp and/or the youth mission trip.

Please contact me with any questions.

Julie Carlblom, Worship & Music Committee

Cell: 507-250-1302 Email: jcarlblom@kmtel.com

### THANK-YOU - an excerpt from a letter from Adopt A Family Holiday Program...

Dear Generous Donors, We are delighted to share that the 2024 Adopt A Family holiday program was a huge success! With your generous gifts, Adopt A Family was able to provide food, toys, clothing, and hope to 462 families, which totaled 1,288 individuals..... Some of CLC's Confirmation kids purchased and wrapped gifts for this organization. Funding from Thrivent as well as private donations totaled \$370 that the group had available to use.

### 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.

### SCHEDULE FOR FEB 2

9am Worship

9:20am Sunday School

10am Annual Meeting

### ANNUAL REPORTS

Are available in the entry or at this link: [clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Annual-Report-2024.pdf](http://clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Annual-Report-2024.pdf)

### THANK-YOU

Thank-you for the Christmas gift and quilt. Merry Christmas to all! - Phyllis Prigge



# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

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

The lessons for February will be:

2/2 - Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:4-10 - **starting at 9:20am in Fellowship Hall**

2/9 - The Disciples - Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3

2/16 - No Sunday School

2/23 - Joseph Feeds His Family - Genesis 45:3-11, 15

**Preschool through 4th graders will sing on 2/9 at the 10 AM service.** PLEASE NOTE that this is a change from the 8 AM service due to a conflict with the Chancel Choir singing at the 8 AM service.

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

## 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

## 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 was due Jan 15, \$125; payment 3 is due Mar 15, \$100.** Scholarships are available, speak with Pastor Susan privately.

**VBS** - July 28-31 from 6-8pm. More info to come.

**SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** - Applications will be located on the kiosk in later February.

Youth activity pictures from Dec party



## 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/)

## 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.

## CONFIRMATION NEWS - FEBRUARY

With the new year, begins the second half of confirmation. A few important dates to note on your calendar. More details following in the weekly confirmation emails.

**February 26:** Mental Health Dinner for Confirmation Parents + Kids at 5:15. Join us for a supper of soup and grilled cheese (we will be practicing for Lent). We will have a presentation on mental health and community resources.

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Confirmation students (with help from parents who are able to attend) are responsible for preparing and serving the meal (soup and desserts provided by other church members), cleaning up after, and helping with the service. Start time for your student will vary based on assigned role for your student's grade. There was a rotating schedule sent in January. Students are required to attend Lent church services and we welcome all parents to attend with them. Students are free to go following service - there will be no small groups after service during Lent.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Please join our pastor led Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10am. New members welcome!

**BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** - Registration forms will be on the kiosk soon, 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)

**MISSION TRIP SHARES** - Forms can be found on the kiosk soon. Shares are \$25 each and help cover youth and chaperone expenses on the mission trip. There will be a presentation following the trip with treats and a video, for shareholders.

# CHURCH LIFE/OUTREACH

## BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club gathering will be Tuesday, February 7 at 6pm at church. We will be discussing the book "The Gifted School" by Bruce Holsinger. Feel free to join us if interested. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth at [Auntierootie@gmail.com](mailto:Auntierootie@gmail.com) or Kristie at [kjn0312@gmail.com](mailto:kjn0312@gmail.com). At that meeting, our next book "I Capture the Castle" by Dodie Smith, will be distributed.

## MOVIE TIME

Please join us on Friday, February 28 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, February 15 is our next event. Contact Kari Prigge for info.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels program for Christ Lutheran starts on March 1. If you are interested in volunteering, call Sandy Erickson.

## JOY CLUB

Joy Club will be meeting for lunch for Tues, Feb 11 at 11:30 am at Wild Wings. Let Sandy Erickson know if you plan to attend by Feb 7, 507-259-2321.

## 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 at Christ Lutheran Church between the two services needs cookies or bars. If your last name starts with E - H, please provide a batch of cookies or bars. Drop off the treats at CLC kitchen before the 8:00 am service.

## QUILTING/SEWING GROUP

The Quilting group will meet Sat, Feb 8, from 9-12pm. Contact Chris Polzin with questions at 507-269-7579 or [mpolzin@frontiernet.net](mailto:mpolzin@frontiernet.net)

## 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.



## 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...*



## THANK-YOU!

Thank-you so much for the bag of goodies. I have not been baking anything for Christmas this year. So it all tasted so good to me, and I loved the lap quilt! You gals at CLC are terrific! - Bev Smith

As a 95 year old recipient of a Christmas gift from the CLC ladies, I was thankful for the bag of goodies and a wonderful warming shawl that couldn't be matched by any commercial outlet. Blessed be those ladies who work, plan and sew thru the year to gift the elderly church members. -Bill Jones

Thank-you for the gift bag of goodies and also for the nice quilt. Denny really likes that to keep him warm! -Dennis & Nona Nepstad

Thanks so much for the Christmas gift. The quilt is so beautiful, chocolate chip banana bread was so good, and also the candy, apple and orange. Thanks so much! -Stella Anderson

Thanks for the gifts you brought for me and others here at Madonna Summit during the Christmas season! I enjoyed so much the Youth and their leaders who sang and played bingo with us and gave each of us a gift! You have blessed us all. May God bless each of you! -Mary Jo Peterson



## 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, Ashley Ebenhoh, Joe Biewer and Pastor Susan

Members Absent: Tim Anderson, Dave Schlobohm

Joys and Concerns

#### Information/Discussion

Engagement Committee Presentation of the CLC Ministry Site Profile.

Thank You to all the committee members for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Carol and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ashley

Motion Passed

Approval of last month's minutes: Motion made by Joe seconded by Carol

Motion Passed

Mark presented the annual meeting Agenda

Mark presented the Ballot for the Annual meeting

Joe presented the Treasurer's report. December income/expenses \$3,765, YTD -\$6,938.25.

Thank you everyone!

#### Action Items

Joe presented the 2025 Budget Proposal.

Luke moved for the inclusion of the proposed 2025 budget into the annual report seconded by Tom

MOTION PASSED

Tom moved for the inclusion of the purposed Ballot into the annual report, seconded by Luke

MOTION PASSED

Luke moved we adjourn, Tom seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Annual Meeting is February 2nd at 10am

Next council meeting is February 18<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.

### ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Sunday, Feb 16, 2025, 1pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Stewartville.

**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/) Please share your talents as we serve God together.

### 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 \$80 in December 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

**February 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

**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.



**2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-20** <sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Sue Hoenk, Aaron Stolp, Charlie Finley, Jim Anibus, Jim Larson, and Jerry Rieser.

Please pray for the family and friends of Vicky Boelter, as they mourn her death.

**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**

Nov 2024 Avg	181
Nov 2023 Avg	203
Dec 2024 Avg	230
Dec 2023 Avg	246
1/5/25	134
1/12/25	144
1/19/25	122
1/26/25	155
Jan 2025 Avg	139
Jan 2024 Avg	180