



Dear Friends in Christ,

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. ~John 11:25~

Greetings Christ Lutheran Church!

Many of our festivals in the church are not just a single day, but a season in the life of the church. Christmas is not only December 25, it continues for twelve days. Lent stretches across forty days of reflection and preparation. Easter is much the same. It is not just one day, but a season. In fact, the church celebrates Easter for fifty days, all the way until Pentecost.

That may feel surprising in a world that moves quickly from one thing to the next. The decorations come down, the candy disappears, and before long the stores have already moved on to the next holiday. But the church moves at a different pace. The church lingers in the joy and promise of the resurrection.

Of course, even nature sometimes reminds us that good things take time. Just when it seemed like spring was finally arriving, we were greeted with another snowstorm. Many of us had started to think winter was behind us, or at least I thought so. The snow was melting, the days were getting longer, and then winter reminded us it wasn't quite finished yet. Living in Minnesota certainly teaches patience!

But even with another snowfall, we know something important: spring is still coming. The snow will melt again. The ground will warm. Life will return to the trees and fields.

Jesus makes a promise “I am the resurrection and the life.” Resurrection is not only something we remember on Easter morning. It is a promise that continues to unfold in our lives. Even when things still feel a bit like winter or when the world feels uncertain, the good news of Easter is that God is already bringing new life.

So during these fifty days of Easter, the church will continue to celebrate. We will sing our Alleluias. We keep watching for signs of resurrection in our lives, our community, and our world.

After all, Easter is not just one day. It is a season. And more than that, it is a reminder that in Christ, new life is always on the way.

With Easter blessings!

Pr. Jeremy



Jeremy Johnson

Senior Pastor

pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org



Judy Thompson-Reitz

Interim Part Time
Pastor

peacejudy@hotmail.com

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EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - APRIL

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 April will be:

4/5 - No Sunday School - Happy Easter!

4/12 - Doubting Thomas - John 20:19-31

4/19 - The Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

4/26 - Early Believers - Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37

Confirmation will be on 4/26. More information to come.

Offering collected during Sunday school and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through April will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. May through August will go to the Byron Food Shelf. September through December will go to Real Hope for the Hungry.

Thanks! Francine, Sunday School Coordinator

CONFIRMATION NEWS - Wednesday, April 1st: No Confirmation, but please have students attend Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday service(s) that week.

We'll have our last lesson of the "Tough Questions" unit on Wednesday, 4/8. Then the year end pizza party will be at 7pm on Wednesday, 4/15.

On Saturday, April 18th from 9am-2pm, 8th graders only will be finishing up their stoles and faith statements, we'll have lunch and then we'll do class pictures with Kristin Knudson Photography at 1pm. Please let us know if your student is unable to attend on Saturday, 4/18.

Confirmation Sun. is on 4/26 during the 10am service.

Sermon notes and service project forms are due on Sunday, April 26. If your student has not completed these requirements, please have them talk with their mentor(s) or one of the pastors as soon as possible.

6TH GRADE PRE-CONFIRMATION:

Wednesday, April 1st: No Confirmation, but please have students attend Maundy Thursday and/or Good Friday service(s) that week.

We'll play a game of Bible Jeopardy on Wednesday, 4/8. Then the last time we meet for this school year will be Wednesday, 4/15 for a pizza party at 5:30pm!

BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY - Our world religions study will meet on April 13 and 27. We have been

studying the various Christian denominations. We will look at Baptists and Eastern Orthodox and consider both our shared roots and important differences within the Christian tradition. Enjoy the time of reflection during Holy Week and the joy of Easter!

YOUTH GROUP - Please join us on Wednesdays at 7pm for Youth Group in the Youth Room!

MISSION TRIP 2026 - Duluth, MN - July 19-24

The 3rd payment of \$100 is due. If you would like a scholarship, speak with Pastor Jeremy privately.

Upcoming meetings: Wednesday, May 27 at 7pm and Wednesday, July 8 at 7pm (both meetings are for the student and at least 1 parent/guardian)

SENIOR SUNDAY - High School senior recognition Sunday will be May 3rd. A reception with cake will be at 9am with recognition at the 10am worship service. Your CLC church family congratulates you on completing another important milestone. Families will be sent letters with details on submitting your bio and participating in the service. Scholarships will be presented.

Scholarship Opportunities - Scholarship applications are on the kiosk for Youth Committee Scholarship, Hallaway Memorial Scholarship, and Jamsa Memorial Scholarship, and are due in to the church office by Sunday, April 12. Please submit scholarships individually in sealed envelopes marked with the scholarship's name.

MISSION TRIP SHARES - Forms can be found on the kiosk. Shares are \$25 each and help cover youth and chaperone expenses on the mission trip. You can purchase as many shares as you want. There will be a presentation following the trip with treats and a video, for shareholders. Shareholder event will likely be on August 2 at 10am.

KWIK TRIP CAR WASHES - Buy car wash cards for \$40/5 washes on the 1st Sun of the month. Proceeds support the mission trip and Bible Camp Scholarships.

VBS - SAVE THE DATE!!

August 3-6, 2026

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Registration forms are on the kiosk 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: Good Earth Village, Camp Victory, and Camp Omega.**

www.clcbyron.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Biblecampedcom.pdf

CONFIRMATION MENTORS AND COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR

- Please prayerfully consider becoming a mentor or the Confirmation Coordinator for next year. Helping and guiding the youth of our church as they grow in their faith is an amazing and rewarding experience! If you have questions, Holly Alsleben is happy to fill you in on the details!

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP

Registration is available for youth summer camp at www.goodearthvillage.org 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 GEV.

HOLY WEEK/OPEN POSITION

FORUM ON CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS APRIL 12

On Sunday, April 12, between worship services in the Chapel, we invite you to attend a congregational forum regarding updates to our constitution and bylaws.

A task force has been formed to review and make needed revisions to these guiding documents. This will be a thoughtful and thorough process that will unfold over the coming months, with opportunities for additional forums to share information and invite conversation along the way. The goal is to present an updated constitution for congregational consideration at the Annual Meeting in February 2027.

This first forum will focus only on the basics — the history of our current constitution, the general structure of how constitutions work, and an overview of the revision process. We will not be discussing any specific provisions at this time. We hope you'll join us as we begin this important work together.

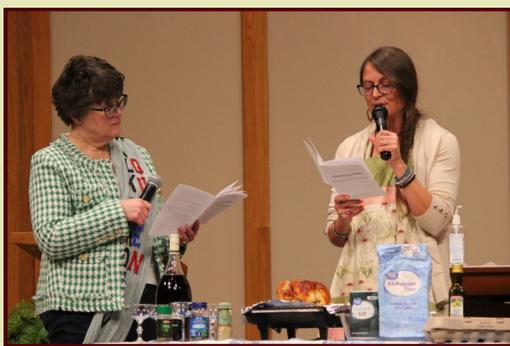
JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us at Christ Lutheran for Holy Week as we walk the journey of Jesus together. Easter celebrates the joy of Christ's victory over death—but before we can fully rejoice, we pause to remember the depth of his sacrifice on the cross. On Maundy Thursday, we gather for a traditional service with Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar. On Good Friday, we will reflect through a Stations of the Cross—style service, as members of our congregation depict the final moments of Christ's journey.

CELEBRATING CREATION - EARTH DAY APRIL 22

April offers a beautiful reminder of God's handiwork. Earth Day encourages us to care for creation with gratitude and stewardship. Consider small steps — reducing waste, planting something new or enjoying the beauty of God's world with fresh appreciation.

SERVE WITH SPRINGTIME COMPASSION - As the season



SEARCH FOR AN ASSISTANT IN MINISTRY

As part of our ongoing conversation about staffing, one of the options being considered is adding a part-time Assistant in Ministry. This is a paid position that would work alongside the pastor to support the life of the congregation and help people grow in faith and connection.

We're looking for someone grounded in Lutheran theology who has a heart for teaching, leadership, and building meaningful programs. This role includes helping coordinate Wednesday night ministries, leading the high school youth group, and supporting other youth activities.

This person will also connect with young adults, building relationships and helping strengthen community both in person and online. There may also be opportunities to assist with parts of Sunday morning ministry.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, we'd love to start a conversation.

changes, some still carry heavy burdens. Look for ways to serve through our mission opportunities — delivering meals, bringing in food donations, visit our homebound, or offering prayer. Together, let's shine Christ's love in practical, hope-filled ways.

THANK-YOU To all our family and friends at CLC, I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, thoughts, and words of encouragement. You all hold a very special place in my heart. You all have made this journey much easier due to your prayers. You have blessed my life and I am so thankful to every one. I pray for each of you and also Pastor Judy and Pastor Jeremy for your blessings as well. Thank you again and God bless you all. —Monica Ronnenberg

PICTURES FROM LENTEN SERVICE SKITS

CHURCH ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

BOOK CLUB - Book club meets next on Tues, April 7, 6pm at CLC. We will be discussing "The Plain Truth" by Jodi Piccolt. We meet at church so easy to attend. We take turns "hosting" which means bringing a snack/treat and using a study sheet to guide discussion. And you don't even have to clean your house to host! Our May book, "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson will be distributed. Contact Kristie Nelson at kjn0312@gmail.com with questions.

CARD MAKING - We will meet on Sat, April 18 from 9am - noon. Kari Prigge is the contact.

JOY CLUB - Joy Club meets April 14 at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall. Hostesses are Elaine Faudskar and Joni Prigge. Anyone interested, please join us on April 14!

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - Fellowship time between the Sunday church services starts at 9:05 am. Treats are donated by members whose last name starts with F - K for the month of April. The treats include cookies and bars that are homemade or purchased. Helpers are needed with setting up and cleaning up. Contact Sandy Erickson or Kari Prigge.

BYRON FOOD SHELF - Location is at the DACS building, 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Hours are: Wed 9-11am, Thur 12-2pm, and 1st Fri of month 6-8pm. CLC's food collections go to the Byron food shelf.

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - The quilting/sewing group will not meet in April. Questions, please contact Chris Polzin 507-269-7579

MEALS ON WHEELS - Meals On Wheels volunteers will deliver meals to neighbors in Byron during the month of June. We deliver Monday thru Friday, no weekends or holidays. Contact Sandy Erickson if you are interested in helping with this community program.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Continuing Our Study of Martin Luther Men's Breakfast will meet again on Thursday, April 16th at 9:00 a.m. at Otto's Bakery. We will continue our study of Martin Luther and what we can learn in leading faithful lives to God, family, and friends. Good conversation, good food, and no homework required. All men are welcome—come when you can and bring a neighbor.

PHOTO DIRECTORY – SAVE THE DATES!

We're excited to begin work on a new church photo directory! This will be a wonderful way to help us put names with faces and strengthen our sense of community. **Photo sessions are scheduled for: August 13–15 and September 15–16.** More details and sign-up info will be shared soon, but for now, please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, July 18, 2-4pm
More info to come!



Recently seen around CLC....



First Place Winners in Puzzle Contest!



SPRING CLEAN UP - Please join us on Saturday, April 25 from 9am - noon as we spruce up the church. We will have inside and outside jobs.

STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 3/17/2026

Members present: T Anderson, J Biewer, A Ebenhoh, J Pfeilsticker, Pastor Johnson, L Brown, L Danielski, C Smith. R Holz and T Tweite present to bring staffing report to council. Members absent: L Eischens, C Meek and D Oestreich.

Joys and Concerns; Devotions: Carol Smith

April - Jason; May-LuRaye; June-Ashley; July- Pastor

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by L Danielski. L Brown seconded, Motion passed.

Approval of February Minutes: Motion by Jason to approve the February minutes. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Jason Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. Feb income; \$36,825.25; Feb expenses \$25,570.47; Feb difference; \$11,254.78 YTD difference is plus \$5,729.09.

Pastor Lesson: Next month. Pastor Jeremy asked God to guide us as we discuss and move forward in our quest for more pastoral care.

Items carried to the next meeting are listed as so.

The council was handed copies of Christ Lutheran Church's Emergency Preparedness Plan. This is to ensure the safety of everyone at Christ Lutheran Church. We will approve this plan at next month's meeting.

Parking Lot Fund, Final push - Joe, next month.

Overview of committees from council reps - next month.

Council as leaders conference, Carol - next month.

Future pastoral care of our congregation: A discussion followed and the general agreement was that we

needed to move forward now. Motion made by G Jaben to have J Biewer proceed with the Synod on finding either part-time Pastoral care or Lay Minister among neighboring ELCA Churches. L Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G Jaben is going to fill a basket for the Palm Sunday silent auction from the council. The theme will be Kid's game basket. Thank you, Gayle. Any donations are welcome.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Jason to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be April 21, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Smith

CHARITABLE GIVING AFTER AGE 70 1/2

Individuals age 70 ½ and older may distribute up to \$100,000 tax-free each year from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing their tax return. The entire distribution must otherwise be deductible as a charitable contribution.

The provision referenced in the above paragraph will allow taxpayers who have reached age 70 ½ to direct the custodian of their IRA account to make a direct distribution from their account to a designated charity. This results in reported taxable income being reduced to the extent of the charitable distribution and achieving a result similar to prior years when they would have itemized deductions. An added benefit is this method of giving also reduces gross income for the calculation determining the amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxable.

CONSIDER QCD DONATIONS - If you are over 70 1/2, consider a QCD. Ask the office for more info.

2026 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

WORSHIP AT CLC

- Sunday worship at 8am traditional and 10am contemporary
- 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 your offering to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) drop off your offering 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 \$677 in March 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

April 2026



Worship Times

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



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastors can be reached by office phone 507-775-6646 or
 Pastor Jeremy 507-481-4394 or pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or peacejudy@hotmail.com
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or jbwiewer@hotmail.com

SAMARITAN BETHANY GOLF CLASSIC

June 18, Willow Creek Golf Course, Rochester
 Sign up: <https://webforms.eleoonline.com/FormDatas/27/a08e58a0-d803-4546-99b7-c81e229c76e5>

2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY - Saturday, May 2, 2026

Mayo Clinic Event Center, Mankato, MN

HOLY WEEK DETAILS

Palm Sunday, March 29, 8am & 10am worship
 Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm worship
 Good Friday, April 18, 6:30pm worship
 Easter Sunday, April 20, 8am & 10am worship

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Ed & Kristie Nelson, Jerry Anderson, Jerry & Marcia Hutchinson, Phyllis Prigge, Bill Jones, Allen & Debbie Kvitem, Bev Smith, and the shut-ins.

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

Jan 2026 Avg	150
Jan 2025 Avg	139
Feb 2026 Avg	168
Feb 2025 Avg	131
3/1/26	107
3/8/26	149
3/15/26	cancelled—weather
3/22/26	131
3/29/26	174
Mar 2026 Avg	140
Mar 2025 Avg	134

