



RAINFOREST FALLS IS ALMOST HERE!

I saw a T-shirt recently that made me laugh. It said, "I am sometimes confused for an adult...because of my age." I could relate.

The truth is, I still haven't completely grown up—and one of the reasons is Vacation Bible School! Every year I get permission to be a kid again. I get to sing the songs, make silly motions, make goofy skits, play games, and see the excitement that fills our church. There is something contagious about the joy of children. Their excitement reminds the rest of us what wonder looks like.

Psalms 111 reminds us, "Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them." Children seem to do this naturally. They ask questions, notice details, explore with curiosity, and delight in discovering something new. What a wonderful way to grow in faith! VBS gives us the opportunity to do exactly that—not just to learn facts about God, but to delight in discovering who God is and how deeply God loves us.

This year we're excited to welcome kids to Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God, August 3–6. Together we'll journey through a vibrant rainforest setting as we discover not only the beauty of God's creation, but also the beauty of God's character. Through Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, snacks, and plenty of laughter, children will explore who God is and what that means for their everyday lives.

Of course, VBS isn't just for the kids. It has a way of reminding all of us to slow down, laugh a little more,

sing a little louder, and see the world with fresh eyes. Maybe that's one of God's gifts through children—they help the rest of us rediscover the joy and wonder of faith.

Please keep our children, volunteers, and leaders in your prayers as we prepare for this exciting week. And if you know a child who would enjoy a week filled with faith, fun, friendship, and discovering the greatness of God, invite them to join us. I can't wait to experience the joy of VBS together!

Peace and blessings!

Pastor Jeremy

MESSAGE FROM SAM, OUR NEW ASSISTANT IN MINISTRY FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ...

Hello! My name is Samantha "Sam" Erickson and I'm excited to start helping out at CLC through this Assistant in Ministry position. I currently live with my dad just west of Douglas, in the house where I grew up. I attended school here in Byron and then went off to college in South Dakota at Augustana in Sioux Falls. I highly recommend it as a great university and fun town, but now I'm happy to be back so I can reconnect with the people and places I knew and have come to appreciate so much! I'm pursuing a career in the medical field at the moment and enjoy horses and natural history. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to let me know. I'm always open to new thoughts and helping out where I can. --Sam



Jeremy Johnson
Senior Pastor

pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org



Sam Erickson
Asst In Ministry

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Inside This Edition:
Page 2-3: Education/
Youth/Calendar/
Volunteers
Page 4-5: Church
Activities/Outreach/
Worship/Stewardship
Page 6: Prayers/
Attendance

EDUCATION/YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - AUG KWIK TRIP CAR WASHES

Teachers are needed for the upcoming Sunday school year! 3-4 teachers for each class would decrease the commitment to 1-2 Sundays per month for each teacher. No experience is required! It is a fun and rewarding way to learn about the greatness of God alongside the kids. Also, the registration fees will be waived for any kids whose parents teach! Please let Francine Kovash know if you are interested! (507) 951-2234 or fkovash@hotmail.com

The Education Committee will be hosting a Rally Sunday Carnival on September 13th at 10am to celebrate the start of Sunday school. All students and their families along with teachers and helpers are invited to join us for fun, food, and fellowship to kick off the Sunday school year.

The first day of Sunday school will be September 20th at 9:05 am. Sunday school will run from September 20th through May 16th and follows the Byron school calendar. 3 year olds through 5th graders are welcome. Sunday school is from 9:05-9:50 and children 3 years old through 2nd grade are expected to be dropped off and picked up in the classroom with a parent/guardian. Registration forms and class schedules will be in the entry. Thanks! Francine, Coordinator

CONFIRMATION

Mandatory Confirmation Retreat at Eagle Bluff: Sat, Sept 12 (only for year 1 and 2 kids)

6th grade pre-confirmation, will meet on Wednesdays at 5:30pm during the school year.

BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for bible study on Mondays in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. We will continue our summer study of Bible Basics, exploring how the Bible came to be, who wrote it, and how it was passed down to us today.

Purchase cards for \$40/5 washes on the 1st Sun of the month after worship. Proceeds support the mission trip and Bible Camp.

YOUTH GROUP

Thanks to everyone for a warm welcome and wonderful July! Youth Group had a fun month full of games, meetings, THE MISSION TRIP!, and misadventure (aka I mixed up swim night with fair night, oops!). July was a blast and the crew were great sports through it all. A special thanks to the students who rounded out our July Crew for staying committed and keeping the conversations lively. Hope to see and meet more of you this August!

Youth Group August Plans (for now):

All updates and details will be in the Snapchat "CLC Youth Group" group chat. (Please get ahold of Jen or I if you'd like to be added.)

--**AUGUST 5th:** TBD due to VBS (Swimming Makeup? ROCA?)

-- **AUGUST 12th:** Berne Pizza (with the church) -- 5pm-8pm (come and go as you please, church will sit together as much as possible, remember it's BYO chair/blanket to sit!)

-- **AUGUST 19th:** Backpack Packing and DQ after -- 6pm at the Communi-



CONFIRMATION MENTORS AND COORDINATOR NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider becoming a mentor or the Confirmation Coordinator next year. 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!



ty Ed Center / 7pm(ish) DQ

-- **AUGUST 26th:** Back to School Bonfire -- TBD time. Come enjoy smores, music, yard games, and a back to school blessing around the new CLC firepit! Thanks again, Sam PS. If you ever need something and I don't respond to your email within a day or two, please text! I'm still working on getting the CLC email to show up consistently on my phone.

Sunday School Registration

3 yr old—5th Grade

[Sunday School Registration 2026-2027 \(Preschool - 5th Grade\)](#)

Confirmation Registration

6-8th Grade

[6th Grade Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation Registration](#)

VBS - August 3-6, 2026

Get ready for an unforgettable week filled with faith, friends, games, music, crafts, snacks, and wild rainforest fun! Scan the QR code to register campers and volunteers.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

JOY CLUB - Joy Club meets the second Tues of the month at 10 am (Aug 11) in the fellowship hall at CLC. August hostesses are Linda Holmseth and Sandy Erickson.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

Fellowship Time: Please join us for coffee and treats at 10am in the fellowship hall following worship! A list of volunteers to help will be mailed by Aug 15. If you want to help with coffee hour, contact Sandy Erickson.

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.

BERNE PIZZA - AUGUST 12

The Diner's Club would like to invite any interested in meeting at Berne for pizza on August 12 and listening to the music by an Elton John Tribute band. Contact Gayle Jaben with questions. We hope to see you there!

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - Sewing group will meet Thur, Aug 6, in the fellowship hall from 9am - noon. We will continue working on throw size quilts, for either Project Linus or the Landing, baby blankets/quilts for tummy time for the Family Resource Center, or we will have a couple lap quilts if folks are willing to tie them. We have donated flannel fabric to cut, sew and assemble simple blankets/quilts. Feel free to bring your sewing machine. All are welcome to come, even non-sewers. Supplies provided are cutting mats, rotary cutters, scissors, rulers, iron and ironing board. Questions, contact Chris Polzin at mpolzin@frontiernet.net or 507-269-7579

MEALS ON WHEELS - CLC will be delivering meals to neighbors in September. The schedule of drivers will be mailed in August. Additional drivers are needed. Please contact Sandy Erickson if anyone is interested in helping with this community program.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Thursday, August 13, 9am, Otto's Bakery
Bring your neighbor and join Pastor Jeremy for treats while they study the "Top Ten Bible Myths". *The Men's Group will pack backpacks at the community ed building on Wed, August 5.*

BOOK CLUB - CLC Book Club does not meet during the Summer months but soon we'll be gearing up for our next season of Book Club.

Our September read will be in the church office by Sunday, August 2. Our September book is "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. Pick your copy up and sign your name with the number of the book you borrow please. Start reading!

We will meet on Tuesday, Sept 1 at 6:00 to discuss. We always welcome new members!

Recently seen around CLC....mission trip pictures, youth group, supper clubs...



STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

CLC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE & JULY

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting 6-16-26

The Christ Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by J Biewer.

Members Present: T Anderson, J Biewer, L Brown, L Danielski, A Ebenhoh, L Eischens, D Fugleberg, G Jaben, C Meek, J Pfeilsticker, C Smith and Pastor Jeremy. Members Absent: D Oestreich.

Joys and Concerns; Devotions: By A Ebenhoh

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by L Brown. C Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of May Minutes: Motion made by L Danielski to approve May minutes, A Ebenhoh seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer Report: J Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. May income \$31,285.51; May expenses \$26,031.05; May difference \$5,254.46; YTD Difference \$9,052.40. Jason stated that our income is up due to more people taking advantage of their Qualified Charitable Distribution and expenses are down due to the completion of the church mortgage. L Eischens will contact Thrivent regarding a potential presentation this fall on topics such as charitable giving, retirement planning, and similar topics.

Information/Discussion Items:

Constitution Update: Pastor Jeremy and T Anderson reported that the committee recently met, and the constitution is mostly finished—they are just working on a few revisions. One topic discussed was combining the Endowment Committee, Memorial Committee, Audit Committee, and Finance Committee into one committee titled Finance Committee. We all agreed to combine these committees into one "Finance Committee" and the other committees would fall under this category. Once all revisions of the constitution are complete, the committee will concentrate on updating the bylaws. An informational forum will be scheduled this fall to review the constitution, give feedback and answer questions anyone might have.

Assistant in Ministry: Pastor Jeremy reported that 6 people applied for this position. Three people were interviewed and two applicants were given a second interview. The committee is recommending Samantha Erickson for this position. This will be a part-time role of approximately 20 hours per week. The start date will potentially be June 22, pending completion of required documents.

Emergency Preparedness Plan: We were given copies of the finalized Emergency Preparedness Plan. This will be made available online on our church website.

Action Items:

Motion made by D Fugleberg to hire Samantha Erickson for the position of Assistant in Ministry. J Pfeilsticker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Motion made by L Brown to approve the Emergency Preparedness Plan. C Meek seconded, motion passed.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by C Meek to adjourn the meeting. G Jaben seconded, motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be July 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by L Eischens, council secretary

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting 7-21-26

The meeting was not held due to the lack of a quorum. The next meeting will be August 18, 2026, at 6:30pm. Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

CHANCEL CHOIR NEEDS SINGERS!!

We want you to stay healthy! Recent studies have shown that singing in a group helps to support your brain health. Singing praise to God is a wonderful way to support your spiritual health.

Chancel choir practice begins Wed, Sep 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the Chapel. No experience needed. We would love to see you there! For more info, contact Julie Carlblom – 507-250-1302 or alfijcarlblom@gmail.com

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

WORSHIP AT CLC - SUMMER SCHEDULE

- Sunday worship at 9am, alternating traditional and 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 \$169 in July in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

2026 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

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

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS



Venmo

Vanco



Christ Lutheran Church
 201 Frontage Road NW
 Byron, MN 55920 www.clcbyron.org
 Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Mon - Wed
 507-775-6646 office@clcbyron.org

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Byron, MN
 Permit Number 17

August 2026



Worship Times

9am Worship - Alternating
 Traditional/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
 Asst In Ministry, Sam, sam@clcbyron.org
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or jbiewer@hotmail.com

PHOTO DIRECTORY - Photo sessions are scheduled for: Aug 13-15 and Sep 15-16. Link to online scheduling: <https://ucdir.com> Church Code: mn649 Password: 649mem
Everyone photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory. Pictures will be available for purchase.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP! SEPTEMBER 13, 9AM Save the date, we are planning for an outdoor service at 9am followed by kick off to Sunday school with fellowship, food, games, and fun for all ages.

CLC ON SUMMER TIME SCHEDULE...

Sunday Worship: May 24 - Sep 13, 9am Alternating Traditional/Contemporary

Office Hours: Jun 1 - Aug 26, Mon-Wed 9 - 1

YOUNG ADULT GROUP - Looking to explore faith with peers? CLC is excited to begin hosting a Young Adults Group! HS Graduates/18+ up to 29 are invited to join us for coffee and conversation. A Meet & Greet/Idea Share will be held 11am, Sunday, Aug 2 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Sam at sam@clcbyron.org



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Please pray for Katie Wild, Jerry & Marcia Hutchinson, Allen & Debbie Kvitem, Mary Isensee, Bev Smith, and all 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

May 2026 Avg	145
May 2025 Avg	150
6/7	109
6/14	127
6/21	117
6/28	100
June 2026 Avg	113
June 2025 Avg	115
7/5	55
7/12	102
7/19	159
7/26	no data yet
July 2026 Avg	
July 2025 Avg	153

