

Christ Connection

Empowered by God's love and following in the ways of Jesus Christ, we LIVE, GROW and SHARE AS Disciples of Christ.

For the Week Beginning March 31, 2019—4th Sunday in Lent



“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” *Luke 23:42*

This verse, our Scripture of the month, appears in the story of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus is crucified as a criminal with two other treasonous criminals. Those crucified with Jesus seem to sense that he is different. One heckles Jesus, insisting that Jesus save all three of them. The other rebukes the first man, telling him that of the three only Jesus did not deserve to be executed. He then turns to Jesus and says this: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

When hearing this story, many of us are quick to condemn the first man. We see him as selfish and self-concerned. We consider that he has completely missed the importance of who Jesus is and the power that Jesus has. We then turn toward the second man. He is the one with whom many people of faith identify. He seems at least to understand that Jesus has a special relationship with God. Still, while at first glance he may seem to be a more charitable request of Jesus, it is no less self-concerned than the first. While he indicates humility for his actions, he still seeks Jesus' favor. Both men ask Jesus to act on their behalf.

Jesus does not condemn either man for their self-concerned requests. Rather, he responds, “Truly, I tell you today you will be with me in Paradise.” The difference in the men's requests is the size of the lens with which each man looks at life. The first man considers only his physical life – the life that he has known. His lens is narrow. The second man's lens is wider, as he considers life beyond what he has known. Jesus' response widens the lens even farther: Not only will Jesus remember them (with favor), but they will be in the presence of God together.

When we are honest, we as people of faith can relate to both of these requests. At times, we ask Jesus to provide for our physical life without considering the bigger picture and the ramifications that may result from Him answering our prayers. We may ask for things that seem good for us at the time, but those same things may harm others or the environment in the end. We may pray for and benefit from a close parking spot, only to realize that the person struggling to walk behind us might have benefited more profoundly from parking in the same close parking spot. This type of prayer asks Jesus to act on our behalf, focusing in only on our personal needs.

Sometimes we are successful at widening the lens and asking for Jesus' favor beyond what is good for us. We may pray for a new transitional housing center to be built in our neighborhood, even if it may lower property values. Although caring for homeless neighbors in this way honors them and our Christian commitment, we also receive the benefits of a neighborhood with more stable housing. Ultimately, this prayer also asks Jesus to act on our behalf and keeps the main focus on us.

Jesus' response reminds us that no matter how wide we make our lens Jesus' lens is always wider. No matter how far we move out of our comfort zone, Jesus moves even farther. And so, we too are invited into humility as we pray: Jesus, remember me in your kingdom. Even though we will never be perfect and our intentions will never be completely pure, Jesus stretches out his arms to embrace us, reminding us that we will be with him in paradise.

Sunday Worship

8:30AM

10:15AM

Sunday Faith Formation

Bible Study
7:30AM—Library

Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor
Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Worship
Bonnie Bucholz, Interim Traditional Music Director
Jo Chiko, Interim Handbell Director
Rev. Craig Felde, Local Missionary
Kristina Dickens and Micki Llewellyn Children and Family Ministries Co-Directors
Nancy Woodruff, Dir. of Communications;
Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant
Richard Kochel, Organist
Nicole Claycomb, Nursery Attendant

Contact Information

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 Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills

 @ChristClarendon

In Our Prayers this Week

New Prayer Concerns

- For the family of **David Jon** and Lori Ball's nephew who passed away
- For **Gene**, Carol Toman's brother.
- For **Rosa**, friend of Suzy Vandenbroucke
- For **Patrick**, Carol Toman's cousin
- For the family of **Keith Groenwald**, friend of Jean Schwier who passed away.
- For **Dolores Kondraschow**
- For **Marcia Lung**, Rob Sorensen's aunt
- For **Russell Orton**, Glen's brother.

For our Homebound

- **Annette Armstrong, Kay Hedborn, Anita Olson, Rose Lynn Erdmann, Ty Johnson, Marge Kleist, Audrey Lowe and Jim Schneider**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- For **Ed Borsuk**
- For **Tom Bruckner**
- For **Pastor Todd Napoli**
- For **Joe Chiko**, Joe's dad
- For **Aly Claycomb** studying abroad for a semester
- For **Chris Luby**, Carl Nodus' brother-in-law
- For **Clemente Inga**, a close friend of Jeannette Tamayo
- For **Joyce Nelson**, Phil Nelson's sister-in-law
- For **Kathy**, Carol Toman's sister
- For **Yvonne**, Pastor Bergmark's sister.
- For guidance for **Mike**, friend of Susan Charlier.
- For **Max**, grandson of Jan Haas' friend
- **Alonso Tamayo**—Jeanette's uncle
- **Howard Beauchamp**;
- **Carol** – friend of the Charlier family;
- **Michael**—Luis Giron's nephew;
- **Bob Cox** – Tricia Giron's father;
- **Parker**—grandson of Bonnie Bucholz' neighbor;
- **Kayla**— Andrea Palm's sister;
- **Charlotte Grace**;
- **Colton** – child of a friend of Dan Cramer;
- **Pastor Melissa**;
- **Jackie** – Nancy Woodruff's mother.

Sustained Support and Encouragement

- **Brad Bucholz** deployed to Kuwait for one year ;
- For encouragement for **Jeff**.



We are happy to announce that Pastor Erin Clausen will be installed here at Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 28, 2019. **We will have one service of celebration at 10:00 a.m.**, and Bishop Wayne Miller is scheduled to preach. Festivities will follow the service.



THRIVENT
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Thrivent Members, TODAY is the deadline for designating "Thrivent Choice" dollars.

thrivent.com/thriventchoice

This is a wonderful way to support ministries

MAKING a
DIFFERENCE

Following is an excerpt from an email sent to our District 86 Team from Ayesha Truman, Student Support Coordinator from District 86. Last fall and at Christmas, CLC stepped up to help under-resourced families from the district with backpacks, snack food for students to take home over Christmas Break, and gift cards for families to purchase Christmas gifts and a holiday meal . . .



. . . You have really been on my mind lately. I keep thinking about how the church has helped my kids here at South. For Christmas, we were able to spread the blessings to about 20 families. On top of that, let's talk about the backpacks!!! Kids were so excited about them. For the couple of families that didn't show up to pick up gift cards, I was able to pay it forward in other ways. One set of brothers ended up at my door in need of support. They were actually stealing so they could eat. I was so happy they came to me, and I had something to give them. Your church is amazing, and I am eternally grateful!

*Ayesha Truman
District 86*

CHURCH CALENDAR



Sunday, March 31 - Pastor Nic presiding

Bible Study 7:30AM—Library

Contemporary Worship 8:30AM—Sanctuary

Middle School Ministries 9:30AM—Youth Room

Traditional Worship 10:15 AM—Sanctuary

Pub Church 12:30PM—Tracy's Tavern

Bowling 5:00PM—Suburbanite

Monday, April 1

ROMEOS Breakfast 8:00AM—Blueberry Hill

Worship Team Meeting 7:00PM—Library

Tuesday, April 2

Food For Thought 7:00PM—Satchwell Home

Handbell Practice 7:30PM -Sanctuary Loft

Wednesday, April 3

Christian IMPACT 4:00pm—Library

Worship Band Practice 6:00PM—Sanctuary

Lenten Mid-Week Service 7:15PM—Fireside Room

Choir Practice 7:45PM—Sanctuary

Thursday, April 4

Troop 51 Meeting 6:00PM—Fellowship Hall

AA 8:00PM—Fireside Room

Friday, April 5

Knitting Ministry 10:00AM—Study Lounge

JULIETS 12:00PM—Blueberry Hill

Craft Fair Set-Up 4:00PM—Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 6

Spring Craft Fair 9:00AM—Fellowship Hall

Bible Study 9:30AM—Library

Sunday, April 7 - Pastor Nic presiding

Bible Study 7:30AM—Library

Contemporary Worship 8:30AM—Sanctuary

Middle School Ministries 9:30AM—Youth Room

Traditional Worship 10:15 AM—Sanctuary

Darien Dragons 4H 1:00PM—Fellowship Hall

Wolf Den 51 Meeting 6:00PM—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 9

Handbell Practice 7:30PM -Sanctuary Loft

Wednesday, April 10

Worship Band Practice 6:00PM—Sanctuary

Lenten Mid-Week Service 7:15PM—Fireside Room

Cub Scout Den Leader Comm. Mtg. 7:30PM—Library

Choir Practice 7:45PM—Sanctuary

Thursday, April 11

Troop 51 Meeting 6:00PM—Fellowship Hall

AA 8:00PM—Fireside Room

Friday, April 12

Knitting Ministry 10:00AM—Study Lounge

Saturday, April 13

Spring Clean Up 9:00AM—Church Grounds

Bible Study 9:30AM—Library



BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Pastor Erin Clausen
	Marge Kleist
April 5	Jason Gerren
	Andrew Kraner
April 15	Ed Llewellyn
April 17	Audrey Sprecker
April 19	Glen Yeater
April 20	April Bartosz
April 24	Eileen Nowak
April 26	Jon Ball
April 27	Andrea Palm
April 28	Brendan Krupp
April 29	Nancy Mizura

ANNIVERSARIES

April 20	Lee & Trudy Sinderson
April 20	Joe & Diane Emry
April 20	Larry and Patti Cechowski
April 20	Steve and Susan Charlier

**DINNER
CHURCH**

everyone is welcome to the table

Attention Mission Minded People: Local Missionary, Craig Felde, is looking for volunteers to help with the Dinner Church Launch Team. Whether you like cooking, cleaning up, or just eating, we need your help with this new expression of Church. Dinner Church is a new way of worship, centered around the sharing of a meal in Christian Fellowship. Music, conversation and proclamation are all part of this Pioneer Ministry. An informal informational gathering will be held after the 8:30 service on May 5th.



Quadrant Update From Christian IMPACT

The Christian IMPACT Team has been working with Youth and Family Ministry to update the Growing Grove and Nursery. The hard work put in by the Rummage Sale Team has raised funds to help support the In-Reach Ministry. The first of the funds will be used to purchase new furniture, two tables, 18 chairs, and an area rug, for the "Monkey Room" in the Growing Grove. This will ensure every Sunday School Student will have a seat and workspace when learning about Jesus' love, life, and teachings.

The Quilting Ministry represented CLC at Women of the ELCA and Lutheran World Relief gathering on National Quilting Day, March 16. There, they presented quilts they have been tirelessly working on that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. The quilting ministry creates approximately 20 quilts per year for donation. Recently, the quilting ministry received a lovely monetary donation from Jane McDonald, whom donated her Thrivent Choice Dollars to the ministry. The Quilting Ministry has also been working to create banners for CLC to be used during the different Liturgical Seasons. They recently repurposed and upcycled old choir robes to create the Lenten Banners now hanging in the Sanctuary.



The Knitting Ministry is offering to teach anyone to knit. Learning to knit has many benefits like relieving stress, improving concentration and memory, and can provide you an opportunity to unplug from technology and focus your energy on creating. Learning to make a prayer shawl will not only benefit you and bring you into a closer relationship with Jesus as you knit and pray but also will benefit the person who receives the prayer shawl and is wrapped up in your prayers.

April 6 is our bi-annual **Craft Fair**. This Craft Fair will raise funds for the Anne M. Jean's Food Pantry, which is part of the HCS Food Pantry. The money raised comes from the crafters' and vendors' table donations. We also have raffles and a free will offering to raise money to cover our costs and to fund other outreach and mission work. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at the Craft Show and plenty of gorgeous wares and products to peruse and purchase. **Hope to see you there!**



Calling All Kids! Come to the Easter Eggstravaganza at CLC the Saturday before Easter. We'll have a

light breakfast, color Easter eggs, fill plastic eggs with candy for the Easter Egg hunt, and have a great time together.

We are taking donations of Easter Candy for the hunt. Please drop off in the church office.



Saturday, April 13—9 a.m. to noon