

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 May 12, 2019—Fourth Sunday in Easter



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Every new local initiative or experiment that a church embarks upon implies changes and transitions to be made: *Changes* refer to what is new that we will say “hello” to. *Transitions* refer to what we will say “goodbye” to.

When we talk about *change*, we usually focus on the outcome that the change will produce, e.g., a new way of working together, a new focus of ministry, a new initiative, a new structure. But when we talk about *transition*, we don't focus on new and future outcomes but on endings. *Transition* in the church points to the endings people will have to make to leave something behind. In contrast, *change* hinges on the new reality that is coming into being. People are asked to look forward, ahead, toward the future. The opposite is true when we deal with transitions. Transition hinges on letting go of the old reality and the old identity one had before the change occurred. —*The Center for Parish Development*

As CLC and St. James covenant to do ministry together, we are embracing both changes (such as a new pastor/new worship time) and transitions (the way we did things before). Anytime we transition, letting go of an old reality and identity, we feel anxious. We may know that the transition must happen and even eagerly anticipate the changes. Still, though, transition implies a period of time that we can't be quite sure what to expect or how things will work out.

A gift for churches in transition is that our fundamental story tells us that things *will* work out. The Bible evidences God's saving work in the world over and over again. God reaches out to God's people with love, mercy, and grace. God gathers God's people with hope for the future. This is the story of the Christian people. This is the story of our congregation. God continues to be faithful. We can cast our anxieties on God (difficult as this may be!) and trust that God will bring us through.

Still, though, we cannot be sure that God's future looks like we imagine our own future. If we were creating the world, designing our path, and painting a picture of our church in the future, it may very well look different than the current reality or where God is leading us. God invites us to work together with each other and with God to change, transition, and create a new future. Often, we discover that what God has imagined far surpasses anything that we might have imagined.

More transitions and changes are yet to come. In the coming weeks, I will share more about the upcoming sabbatical (June 17-October 16) and how both I and our congregations will find rest and renewal in that time. I will share my plans for me and my plans for you, and we will both live into God's plan for us and our shared ministry. When I return, our ministry will be strengthened by this time apart. That means it will also be different than how things are now. This is more change and more transition. All of this may cause you to feel anxious.

When you feel anxious, I invite you to notice your anxiety and remember that anxiety is normal. You are reacting to change – what will be different– and transition – what we must say goodbye to. You are noticing that God is working within us, and God's work is always both exciting and unsettling. When you feel anxious, I also invite you to notice your anxiety and step away from it. Give it to God. Ask someone to pray for you. Believe that God is working in you, in our congregation, and in our shared ministry. Invite God to guide us into a new future, and to grant us peace.

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Contemporary

10:15 a.m. Traditional

Sunday Faith Formation

Bible Study

7:30 a.m.

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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In Our Prayers this Week

New Prayer Concerns

- For all those affected by the tragic shooting in Highlands Ranch, Colorado this past week.
- For **Rose Lynn Erdmann**
- For **Pastor Melissa**, friend of the Bergmarks
- For **Don**, Madeline Batke's brother in law
- For **Sara**, Luis Giron's mother.
- For **Peter**, friend of the Charlier family
- For the Wolf Family, especially **Rodney**
- For **Beverly Dahl**
- For **The Harren Family**
- For **Lynn**, friend of Ralph Trombello

For our Homebound

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- **Gene**, Carol Toman's brother.
- **Rosa**, friend of Suzy Vandembroucke
- For **Judy Marxhausen**
- **Joe Chiko**, Joe's dad
- **Dolores Kondraschow**
- **Marcia Lung**, Rob Sorensen's aunt
- **Russell Orton**, Glen's brother.
- **Chris Luby**, Carl Nodus' brother-in-law
- **Clemente Inga**, a close friend of Jeannette Tamayo
- **Joyce Nelson**, Phil Nelson's sister-in-law
- **Kathy**, Carol Toman's sister
- **Yvonne**, Pastor Bergmark's sister.
- **Alonso Tamayo**—Jeanette's uncle
- **Howard Beauchamp**;
- **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;
- **Jackie** — Nancy Woodruff's mother.

Sustained Support and Encouragement

- **Brad Bucholz and Michael Sorensen**, deployed to Kuwait for one year ;
- For encouragement for **Jeff**.
- **Aly Claycomb** studying abroad for a semester

Please remember to call the church office and let us know if someone we are praying for has a change in their status.

HANDBELLS OPEN REHEARSALS

7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays in May

With the resignation of Karen Wilberg as the Director of Traditional Music, Jo Chiko stepped into

the role of Interim Handbell Director in January of this year. This means that Jo isn't ringing bells anymore and the choir has been left with fewer ringers than in the past. Even though the church owns 4 octaves of bells (that's 49 individual notes), we are only playing 2-octave music right now (a mere 25 notes). *We miss our other 24 bells, but we can't use them without more help.* As part of our recruiting efforts, the handbell choir has decided to hold open rehearsals in May. **Every Tuesday night (the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th) at 7:30**, we invite all who are interested in joining - or just curious - to observe our rehearsal as we work on our music for the June 2nd service. There are no requirements for attending one of these open rehearsals: You don't have to commit to the choir or even read music, Even rides to rehearsal can be arranged. Talk to Jo or email her at kjochiko-01@yahoo.com for more information.



Pet Blessing

Sunday, June 9th
2:30 p.m.

St. James Lutheran Church
5129 Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL

CHURCH CALENDAR



Sunday, May 12– Mother's Day/Youth Sunday

Bible Study 7:30AM–Library
Contemporary Worship 8:30AM–Sanctuary
 Middle School Ministries 9:30AM–Youth Room
 Common Life Table 9:30AM–Fellowship Hall
Traditional Worship 10:15 AM–Sanctuary
 Pub Church 12:30PM–Tracy's Tavern

Monday, May 13

Finance Team Meeting 7:00PM–Library

Tuesday, May 14

Handbell Practice 7:30PM -Sanctuary Loft

Wednesday, May 15

Worship Band Practice 6:00PM–Sanctuary
 Choir Practice 7:30PM–Sanctuary

Thursday, May 16

Troop 51 Meeting 6:00PM–Fellowship Hall
AA 8:00PM–Fireside Room

Friday, May 17

Knitting Ministry 10:00AM–Study Lounge

Saturday, May 18

Bible Study 9:30AM–Library
 Eagle Scout Ceremony 5:30PM–Sanctuary
 Beekeepers 6:00PM–Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 19

Bible Study 7:30AM–Library
Contemporary Worship 8:30AM–Sanctuary
 Middle School Ministries 9:30AM–Youth Room
 Common Life Team Meeting 9:30AM
Traditional Worship 10:15 AM–Sanctuary
 Darien Dragons 4H Plant Garden 1:00PM

Monday, May 20

Church Council Meeting 6:30PM–Library

Tuesday, May 21

Handbell Practice 7:30PM -Sanctuary Loft

Wednesday, May 22

Worship Band Practice 6:00PM–Sanctuary
 Choir Practice 7:30PM–Sanctuary

Thursday, May 23

Troop 51 Meeting 6:00PM–Fellowship Hall
AA 8:00PM–Fireside Room

Friday, May 24

Quilting Ministry 10:00AM–Study Lounge

Saturday, May 25

Bible Study 9:30AM–Library

Serving in Worship This Sunday

Presiding Pastor: Pastor Erin Clausen
Sound Support: 8:30: Bob Krohn 10:15: Glen Orton
Projection 8:30: Lori Ball 10:15: Rachel Krohn
Communion Assistants: Dan Cramer and Debra Joslin
Assisting Minister: Dan Cramer
Communion Bread: Debra Joslin
Bakers: Lori Ball and Dan Cramer
Mowing Team: this weekend: Nodus, Chiko, Krepp
Mowing Team: next weekend: Portschy, Johnson, Hancock



Communion Assistants

We are looking for people who would like to serve as Communion Assistants for the Traditional Worship service over the summer. If you would like to help out, there is a sign-up in the Welcome Center. If you have never assisted before, someone from the Worship Team will be happy to meet with you beforehand .

TOP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES at Christ Lutheran Church

- ✝ Help plant the Community Garden May 19th
- ✝ Sign up to Water and Weed the Community garden over the summer
- ✝ Count me in at the All Church Picnic on 5/26!
- ✝ Bring my pet to St. James Lutheran Church in Western Springs for the Pet Blessing on June 9.



In time for Flag Day and 4th of July, the Christian IM-PACT team would like to invite you to a crafting event where we will make a patriotic wreath door hanging. Saturday, June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the fellowship hall. No cost to you, just make sure to sign up so that we have the appropriate amount of materials.



There is a lot of painting going on! The Nursery walls are now a pale shade of grey and the ceiling has been painted too. The ceilings in the office hallway, the library hallway and the Sunday School wing hallway have been painted thanks to a donation of time and materials from Bob Krohn. Thank you Bob! We are looking for volunteers to paint the walls of the Sunday School hallway (The Growing Grove). The walls are currently a bright green and we will be painting them to match the grey that is found elsewhere in the hallways. If you like to paint and have some extra time, please let the office know and we will put you to work!

In addition, we are working on many other projects around the property. We are evaluating the quotes

we've received for seal coating our parking area and plan to have that work done in June, when the preschool is off for the summer. In addition, we are speaking with landscaping companies to seek solutions to the erosion caused by water runoff along the north side of the property.

With the library scheduled to become a preschool classroom starting in June, we will be removing/relocating the coat racks outside the fireside room and moving bookshelves from the library to where the coat racks are.

The lawn mowing team has a new John Deere riding mower to keep our grass looking great. We thank Jim Rice for orchestrating the purchase through Home Depot which was no small feat, and we thank those who made special donations to help with the amount over and above what was budgeted.

Don't forget about the community garden planting to take place on May 19th.

And lastly, with the announced departure of our tenants from the parsonage property, we will be working on the small projects necessary to get the house into shape for a new tenant family.

If you have any questions, please see Jane McDonald or Joe Svoboda.
(jmcdonald323@gmail.com or joseph.d.svoboda@gmail.com)



Blessing of the Wheels

Bring your bikes, rollerblades, scooters, walkers and wheelchairs

On Memorial Day Weekend we will kick off the summer with an all-church picnic.

It will be the first Sunday of our single-service format, so our congregation will be all together for the first time in awhile.

The hamburgers and hot dogs will be donated by the Children's Ministry Team, and we ask that everyone bring a side dish or salad to share.



It is with sadness that we will say goodbye to our beloved organist, Richard Kochel next Sunday. Richard has secured a full-time position at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Westmont, a position that will start in two weeks. We will be lifting up Richard's ministry next Sunday during the Traditional worship service.

We will miss you Richard!!