

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 December 22, 2019—4th Sunday of Advent



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

At last week's congregational meeting, it became clear that our congregation is still seeking clarity about what our central ministries are, how we fund these ministries, and whose responsibility it is to make critical financial decisions, especially when they affect our staffing structure (and the people who hold those positions). The congregation voted to postpone debate and a vote on a budget until a special congregational meeting, to be held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 12.

The congregation and staff were invited to share comments and input - either via email or at the council meeting this week. The council has received this input and has created a task force (Al Kondraschow, Matt Ramirez, Cindy Meding, and Maggie Swiess) to collate this input and to work on a process for how we will make a decision and possibly provide to council a budget proposal.

Because we are a congregation of diverse opinions and understanding, your input continues to be essential in this process. The task force needs to know: *what do you need to know to be ready to pass a 2020 budget?* Plan to come to the common life table to share your thoughts - and also share them with me, the task force, and on your connection card, so that you can receive the information you need.

Whenever we talk about what our core ministries are and how we fund them, we are talking about things that deeply affect our spiritual lives. Our spirits are fed through the worship and ministry of our congregation, and it is through this nourishment that we are then able to go out into the world, proclaiming good news of great joy to all people.

As we mark the final days of Advent and move into Christmas, we will hear again the call to prepare the way for the Christ child, to make known the wonders of his birth and all that God has done. God has done - and continues to do - wonderful things at CLC. God continues to be faithful with us, even as we discern a new way of being church. This discernment is painful, and change is painful. God is with us in the pain. This discernment can also be exciting, though, as God is doing a new thing! God remains with us in the excitement, too.

So, as the angels will say on Christmas Eve - Do not be afraid. Welcome the presence of God in a new way - through a tiny baby, or a different way of being church, or a new kind of budget. Welcome the presence of God through the ministries that we have and that continue. Welcome the presence of God in worship and education, discernment and sharing your thoughts. Welcome the presence of God in communion and fellowship. Welcome the presence of God here today and each day as Christ is continually reborn in us and our community.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 Worship

Children's Pageant

Sunday Faith Formation

Bible Study

8:00 AM — Fireside Room

Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor

Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant

Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Worship

Bonnie Bucholz, Traditional Music Director

Jo Chiko, Handbell Choir Director

Rev. Craig Felde, Local Missionary

Kristina Dickens

Children & Family Ministries Director

Nancy Woodruff,

Dir. of Communications

Mara Leonard—Organist

Contact Information

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Christ Lutheran Church of
Clarendon Hills



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Church Council



Following this week's Council Meeting, Dan Cramer resigned from his position as President and Council Member. The Council accepted his resignation. Vice Presidents Katherine Burson and Maggie Swiss will serve as acting presidents until the next regular election.

The Council wishes to thank Dan for all of the hard work he has put in over the last year, and will miss his input and leadership.



The nursery will **not** be staffed by volunteers for the services on Sunday December 22nd, Tuesday December 24th, Wednesday December 25th, and Sunday December 29th. The nursery is open for parents whose little ones may need a break. All children must be supervised by an adult for safety reasons if they need to take a break in the nursery. The nursery will be staffed beginning January 5th, 2020.

There is **NO Sunday School** on Sunday, December 22nd and Sunday, December 29th, 2019. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 5th, 2020. See you then!

B U D G E T

2020

If you have not turned in your Commitment Form for the 2020 ministry year, there is still time! You may place them in an envelope and put them in the offering or drop them off in the church office.

To date we have received 36 cards for a total financial commitment of \$104,150.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, December 22

Bible Study 8:00AM—Fireside Room

Worship 9:00AM—Sanctuary

Middle School Ministries 9:30AM—Youth Room

Memory Tree Service 10:15AM—Memorial Garden

Common Life Table 10:15AM—Fellowship Hall

Pub Church 12:30PM—Tracy's Tavern

Tuesday, December 24

Family Worship 5:00PM—Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship 11:00PM—Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship 10:30AM—Sanctuary

Thursday, December 26

AA 8:00PM—Fireside Room

Friday, December 27

Quilting Ministry 9:00AM—Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 28

Bible Study 8:00AM—Fireside Room

Worship 9:00AM—Sanctuary

Thursday, January 2

AA 8:00PM—Fireside Room

Friday, January 3

Quilting Ministry 9:00AM—Fellowship Hall

Knitting Ministry 10:00AM—Study Lounge

JULIETS 12:00PM—Blueberry Hill

Saturday, January 4

Bible Study 9:30AM—Fireside Room

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Erin Clausen

Chancel: Lori Ball, Wendy Sanders

Communion Bread: Mary Satchwell

Assisting Minister: Dan Cramer

Communion Assistant: Deacon Steven Dickens,

Projection: Lori Ball **Sound:** Bob Krohn

Nursery: Not Staffed

Sunday School: No Sunday School Today

After Service Bakers: Bryce and Trish Giron, Sharon Jackson



Holiday Hours

During the week after Christmas, the church office will be minimally staffed to allow our staff to enjoy some family time after a busy Advent and Christmas season. We

will be back for regular office hours beginning on Thursday, January 2. Emails and phone calls to the office will be checked regularly.

LUMINARIAS



Every Christmas Eve, shortly after dark, the Village of Clarendon Hills is transformed by the glow of thousands of candles lighting sidewalks, driveways, and

hearts as far as the eye can see. Luminaria is a simple candle set placed on top of sand in a brown paper bag. This tradition is so popular that most of the houses in Clarendon Hills participate and the village as a whole becomes so luminous that visitors flock from all over to bask in the glow of a transformed Clarendon Hills. Christ Lutheran Church loves to be a part of this rich history. We are looking for a few volunteers who can take on this project with a joyful heart and keep the tradition alive for our church this Christmas Eve. We need people willing then to set them out at dusk on Christmas Eve. Please use your Connection Card to volunteer.

Welcome

New Members

At the December, 2019 Church Council Meeting, the council voted to welcome the following people into the ministry and mission of Christ Lutheran Church:

Tom and Joanne Bruckner

Richard and Helen Cooke

**Leslie Danford and her children
Hugh, Teddy and Quentin**

All of these folks have been worshipping with us lately, but we are delighted to make it official! Welcome to you all!



This Sunday morning we are in for a real treat as the children of CLC will proclaim the message through song as they present this year's Christmas Pageant.

Our Children's Choir, under the direction of Bonnie Bucholz, has been working hard on "**Christmas Around The World**", a musical reminder that Jesus came for the whole world; His love is for everyone!



Sunday, December 22

9:00 AM Worship featuring the children's choir in "*Christmas Around the World*"

Tuesday, December 24

4:00PM Luminarias set out
5:00 PM Family Worship
11:00 PM Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 25

10:30AM Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 29

10:30AM Worship with Hymn Sing

Memory Tree Service

Sunday, December 22

10:15 AM



Because of the budget meetings, some were not able to participate in this Christmas Tradition at CLC. We will offer it following worship this Sunday. Please bring a weatherproof ornament for the tree.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At the Special Congregational Meeting on December 15th, the congregation voted to revisit the issue of the 2020 budget after the holidays. By the time of this meeting, the 2019 giving numbers will all be in, giving us a better sense of where we stand financially. We are also hopeful that people will take some time to study the scenarios put forth by council, and perhaps do some brainstorming to come up with creative solutions.

On Sunday, January 12th, we will hold one worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Special Congregational Meeting.