

Christ Connection

LINKS to ZOOM Worship

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 6, 2020 Second Sunday in Advent

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Earlier this week, Bishop Curry called me into his virtual 'office' for a meeting. With everyone working from home these days, we don't bump into our colleagues or bishop in the regular course of things anymore. We have had to become intentional about checking in with one another. During this meeting, the bishop said: I know you're work-

ing so hard behind the scenes, and maybe it seems like no one notices what you're doing. So I want you to know that you're appreciated.

During this busy time of year - and especially during a pandemic year - I deeply appreciate these words. It's not that I have a habit of *feeling* overlooked or underappreciated. Rather, sharing words like these just doesn't make it to the top of most peoples' "to do" lists. At the same time, during this busy time of year - and especially during a pandemic year - I have found myself offering praises of you, CLC, to many of my colleagues, friends and family. So I'd like to share these same words with you. I know you are working so hard and so much happens behind the scenes. Maybe you think no one notices what you're doing. So I want you to know that I notice you. And I appreciate you.

Think of all that you, congregation, have done this year:

- You held a SouperBowl of Caring that brought in 2,912 pounds of food and an additional \$1,071.27 in donations
- You moved all church operations to virtual platforms *immediately* upon recognition of the health concerns of COVID-19.
- You birthed a COVID Resiliency Team, who put in tons of hours to find safe(r) ways of meeting
- You participated with all of the ministry teams - including council and staff - in finding creative new ways to do ministry online, socially distant, and outdoors
- You began a ministry of caring for one another through phone calls and zoom meetings
- You figured out how to continue doing Bible studies with each other
- You show up for one another at Zoom worship each week
- You sent \$542.72 to ELCA World Hunger from the Lenten/Easter Piggy Bank Drive
- You began a mask ministry and supplied hundreds of masks to congregation members, community members, a clothing pantry, and other local organizations
- You gave \$3,200 to District 86 families to feed them throughout the summer
- You hosted a virtual Vacation Bible School and supplied VBS kits to congregation children

Sunday Worship

9:00 am and noon on ZOOM
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

Thursday 12/17 at 7PM
Advent Midweek (see p. 5)
on ZOOM

Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor

Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant

Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Music

Bonnie Bucholz, Dir. Traditional Music

Jo Chiko, Handbell Choir Director

Dan Cramer, Director of Social Media Marketing

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Children & Family Ministries Director

Contact Information

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Clarendon Hills



@CLCClarndnHills



[clc.clarendon.hills](https://www.instagram.com/clc.clarendon.hills)

Follow us on Social Media!

- You made sure the lawn was mowed and the flower garden was beautiful
- You took care of regular painting and church upkeep projects
- You sewed and blessed a multitude of quilts - and they're still coming
- You hosted a virtual baby shower with the Celebration Preschool and fully stocked 2 young mothers' layettes
- You shared pictures, prayers and favorite Bible verses with one another
- You completed a sanctuary lighting project, so that we'll be able to see when we return to worship in the sanctuary
- You helped to raise funds for Erick, a Bolivian child whom CLC sponsors
- You are raising additional funds to feed District 86 students over the holiday break
- You continue to share hope, peace, joy, and love with those whom you encounter, as a mark of *who we are* as children of God.

I am grateful for all of the things that you have done over this last year. I am also grateful for *who you are*. You have been kind, gracious, resilient, creative, and hopeful throughout this year. It has not been the year we expected. It has not been the year we had hoped for. And yet, church isn't closed... it has just left the building. God's ministry in us continues.

I notice you, church. I appreciate you. And may God bless you, and us, and this ministry for another year - whatever it may bring!

Pastor Erin



Please Visit the Memory Tree

A long-standing Christ Lutheran Church tradition, the Memory Tree service is an opportunity for us to gather outdoors in our Memorial Garden where we have a lighted tree set up. While the service was held last Sunday in person, the tree is waiting for anyone who wishes to honor a loved one by hanging an ornament. Copies of the Memory Tree Service were sent out last Sunday to all on our email list for those who would like to experience the readings. If you know someone who would like to visit but does not have access to the liturgy, please call the church office and we will make arrangements.

Time of Reflection offered to families during the week before

Christmas



Christmas will be different in 2020; with the COVID restrictions around safety and sanitation, we find ourselves trying to figure out what it will "look like" this year.

Our church will be offering families and individuals a chance to spend some time in our worship space during the week before Christmas with the hope that it will provide peace, a chance to pray, listen to Christmas hymns, light a candle, admire the decorations and feel closer to God.

The sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas and hymns will be playing. It will be an opportunity for any who wish to take some quiet time, pray, reflect on the nativity, light a candle of remembrance, or simply dwell in the worship space.

Watch for details in next Friday's Christ Connection.





Midweek Advent

Please join us for Advent bingo and the Advent craft with Ms. Bonnie and Pastor Erin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 9th and 16th! This is a family oriented/ intergenerational Advent season for all to enjoy. So, take a break from the daily routine and join us at 7:00 p.m. Each week there will be one \$25.00 gift card for the best attempt at the craft from Youth Ministry!

Zoom information for Wednesday evening Advent series is on page 5.

Photos Needed

Please submit photos for the Youth Ministry slideshow by Monday, December 7th, 2020! The slideshow will be on Sunday, December 13th, 2020 during service. Please email photos to kristinadickens15@gmail.com or text them to 630.303.2201.

Christ Craft Corner

The Christ Craft Corner with Ms. Tricia is Sunday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m. for all Youth Ministry Sunday School children and Confirmation Class children. We will have two crafts for all to enjoy. Deliveries will be made the week before. The annual Christmas gift ornament will also be delivered at

Cards for a Cause

Deadline TODAY (Friday)! Order your box of cards from Usborne Books and More for Erick! We need to have 15 boxes ordered to get FREE SHIPPING on the Cards for a Cause Boxes. If we do not meet the 15 box requirement, we do not get the funds for Erick from the fundraiser. We have to order 15 boxes total! Please help by ordering now. The date had been extended to order! Order by THIS Friday, December 4th, 2020! Email me by replying with your order and then mail the check in to the church. You may also text me at 630.303.2201. Choose from the Cards for All Occasions (Box 1), the Cards for All Occasions (Box 2), the Holiday Card Collection Box, the Thanks & Blanks Box, or the Kids Birthday Box. For \$30 you will receive a lovely keepsake box containing 30 unique cards; that's \$1 each! *If you choose The Holiday Card Collection Box, you receive 50 cards!* It couldn't be simpler for you; just place your order and it will be delivered by one of our Youth & Family Ministry families. Our group earns \$13* per box of cards sold, with no maximum earning potential.



Gift Card Fundraiser In Full Swing!

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas Holidays are upon us and our annual Gift Card Fundraiser has begun. How is it a Fundraiser for CLC? You pay the face value of the gift card; Christ Lutheran Church pays a few percentage points less, and is able to keep the difference to help fund the ministries of our church.

There are two ways you can take advantage of this convenient opportunity:

- ✝ Support District 86 families by purchasing and donating \$25 gift cards to either WalMart or Target which will be distributed by the school to families identified to be under-resourced this year. This year, our goal is to give \$100 in gift cards to each of 20 families for a goal total of \$2000! Please help Youth Ministry and Christian IMPACT reach this goal for 2020. We are \$450.00 from this goal as of today.
- ✝ Take advantage of the over 700 vendors in many different denominations available for your own Christmas gift giving. The order deadline for Personal Christmas Shopping is Sunday, December 20th.

How Does it Work?

- Print out the ShopWithScrip form available [here](#)
- Choose the gift cards you wish to purchase and list them.
- Issue a check made out to Christ Lutheran Church for the face value of the cards you order.
- Place the check and list in an envelope and either mail it to church or drop it in the mailbox at the south entrance (coded door).
- Orders are placed on Monday mornings. You will be contacted when the order is ready for you to pick up.
- Any questions? Please call the church office at 630-325-2220 and we will be happy to help!
- Don't have Internet/Printer? Call the office and we will mail you a form or make arrangements over the phone or pair you with a "computer buddy" volunteer who can help with the process.

To recreate our candlelight service on Christmas Eve, we are asking for photos of you and your family safely holding a lit candle. The photos will be incorporated into the Christmas Eve Service

Photographs Needed!

Please remember to take photographs during these weeks before Christmas to help us with our Communion slide shows as well as the very special "Silent Night" closing to the worship service on Christmas Eve.

Whether you are decorating, baking, wrapping gifts or see something especially inspiring during these weeks ahead, please snap a photograph and email it to church and we will use it for the Communion Slide Show.

Photos should be sent to office@yourchrist.org.



Advent Midweek Services



Midweek Advent Zoom for Family & Friends:

Have you noticed that every year during Advent, we get out a special wreath and candles only for the season? Have you ever wondered what an Advent wreath is or means? Do you want to delve into the meaning of Advent - the holy time of waiting and expecting that comes before Christmas - in a way that centers the coming of Christ?

Are you looking for a way to connect with your family or other church members during this season? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions - or even if you're just curious - join the Zoom Advent Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesdays 12/9, 12/16. It's an intergenerational event, intended for anyone and everyone who is waiting for Jesus to come this season! Lessons by Pastor Erin will be combined with family-friendly fun activities and crafts led by Ms. Bonnie. Here are words to a song we will be using for our Advent service, sung to the tune from "Away in a Manger."

"A Candle is Burning"

by Sandra Dean, Ottawa (some words adapted by Bonnie Bucholz)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of Hope in the darkest of night.
Though troubled and worried yet we will not fear.
Our hearts are now hopeful, for Jesus is near.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;
A beacon to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A baby, named Jesus is laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;
A warm glow to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
New life like a present now being unfurled.
God's promise of joy to an expectant world.

A candle is burning, a flame strong and sure
Reminds us that God's Love will always endure.
Deep love like the ocean, steady as the tide.
Great love which comes to us with arms open wide.

(when lighting the Christ Candle)
A candle is burning, for the Christ has come.
The fullness of God dwells in this precious one.
A child is born who has good news to tell.
It's Jesus our Savior, Emmanuel.



Don't forget to write/draw what you are hopeful for on the strips of paper that you received in the mail last week. Mail them back in the envelope to Ms. Bonnie so that they can be included in the "Hope Chain" that will be created for our Christmas Eve Worship Service!

[Use this link for access to
Midweek Zoom service](#)

