

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 April 12, 2020—Easter Sunday



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church,

During this time of pandemic, the latest theological hot-button has been whether we in the ELCA may incorporate communion into our online services. Many theologians and pastors have many different understandings of this. At the time I write this letter, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Rev. Elizabeth Eaton has suggested that congregations fast from communion until we can gather in person again.

As I have engaged the theology (understandings about God) and ecclesiology (understandings about church) that emerge with this question, I find that I have come to a different conclusion than our presiding bishop. Therefore, on Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter season, I will include the Words of Institution and the Eucharist in Sunday worship, and I invite you to join me and 'all the saints of every time at place' at the table. I understand that some of you may feel uncomfortable communing in this way. Please feel free to refrain from communion if that is the case. Founder of the Lutheran expression of faith, Martin Luther, heavily stressed that the Word of God alone - through scripture and proclamation of the gospel - is sufficient to nourish our faith. Should you choose to use this as a time of fasting from the sacrament, I as your pastor and all others at CLC will respect your faithful choice.

For those interested in coming to the table, though, preparation becomes necessary - just as we prepare each week when we are physically present in the sanctuary. We prepare inwardly through prayer, confession, and absolution. We also must prepare outwardly. Consider preparing your table in a special way. Maybe you bring out the silk tablecloth, or maybe you just move all the other "stuff" to another surface, or the other side of the table. Think carefully about the plate and cup you will use to hold the elements. Maybe you find something with special significance, or maybe you grab the only clean plate and one of the children's sippy cups. Remember that our usual practice is to cover the elements until we are ready to ask God to bless them, and see if you can find a towel or piece of cloth to replicate this tradition.

Next, consider the elements that you will consume. In this Christ Connection, you will find the bread recipe that CLC's communion bakers use. You might choose to use that. You might use different bread. You might choose something gluten free. Fundamentally, the bread represents that which sustains life. So, use something basic and life-sustaining: bread, crackers, rice cakes... but probably not cookies. :) As for drink, this represents festivity - for many people, wine is a festive drink. Now, many people prefer grape juice for reasons of health or conscience. During a time of quarantine, where wine or juice may be difficult to come by, consider what drink is available that might serve this festive purpose. When we consume life sustaining food and festive drink, we remember that Christ both sustains us and uplifts us, through word and sacrament.

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Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Faith Formation

Watch for information on virtual Bible Study opportunities.

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
Kristina Dickens
Children & Family Ministries Director
Mara Leonard—Organist

Contact Information

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Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills



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The Church Rummage Sale has been postponed to a later date due to the rules around social distancing amidst the current Covid-19 pandemic. Please continue to save items. The sale will be August 22, 2020



The Church building will be closed until further notice amidst the current Coronavirus concerns. Access codes for our congregation members and all outside groups have been disabled.



We will keep all families updated via email on a weekly basis. Please read your Youth & Family Ministries emails and check out our Facebook page regularly!



Please send us photos of the family getting ready for Easter! Whether you are baking, coloring eggs, decorating, etc. We want to see what you are up to! Please email photos to Ms. Kristina by Monday, April 13th to be in the post on FB.

We hope that everyone is continuing to save their spare change for the Christian IMPACT Team's Lenten Mission project! Once we are passed the Shelter in Place and are able to worship together as a church family, we will be collecting the banks. Please make sure your name is on the bank so that we can properly credit you for your giving statement.



A Note for Sunday School parents:

This year we are asking families to save spare change to give to God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. All the children received a barnyard coin box to color, a sheet of barnyard stickers, and a barnyard coloring book. Please use this time to use the barnyard coin box as a teaching tool during this time. You can use it for math, chores, rewards, and more! We are teaching our children to leave a Christ-like footprint on the world. I am asking that all families take pictures of their children with their barnyard and to please email pictures by THIS Friday, **April 10th** to kristinadickens15@gmail.com to be in the Facebook post for God's Global Barnyard.

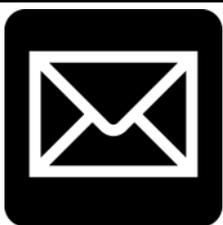
Flower Garden Coming this Spring

Youth & Family Ministries is excited to announce that we will be planting a flower garden! We are planting flowers that will attract bees that will be providing nectar and pollen as food and creating shelters in the garden space which will create new habitat for bees, which is important, as their natural habitats become less and less abundant. **Please stay tuned for the gathering date to plant the garden.**

Building Closed

In response to the CDC's instructions on social distancing and minimizing the spread of Covid-19, the church building is currently closed. Staff will be working remotely, and the phones are forwarded. Our contracted cleaning service did a deep clean and sanitizing to ensure that we return to a clean and healthy church.

All space partners have been notified of this, and codes for the congregation and our space partners have been disabled until further notice.



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Ways To Give During Shelter In Place

Thank you for your faithful support of Christ Lutheran Church during this uncertain time. While we shelter in place, the staff and clergy are still working remotely in order to minister to our congregation. Unfortunately, whether we physically meet in our church, or worship from our homes, our financial obligations must still be met. Your gifts during this time are more important than ever and we are grateful for your generosity. We at CLC feel that our support staff and clergy are our first line of defense in keeping our congregation spiritually healthy and connected during this emergency. We rely on your support and are able to offer you new ways to make your gift. You may mail your offering to the church or you may donate on the CLC website www.yourchrist.org using the "My Gift" button with either a credit card or through an ACH withdrawal. We are pleased to announce that we have modified our website so that you may designate your Capital Campaign (building & parking lot fund) contributions; a great way to help our Financial Secretary keep giving records straight. If you have any questions you may call our office: 630-325-2220 for assistance. Together we remain strong and trust that God has a plan.



In the midst of the COVID 19 Pandemic our local food pantries are seeing a huge increase in the amount of families using their services. People are out of work; children are at home all day and although some schools are still providing free meals, without transportation, the children are not able to access them. All this puts a great strain on our local food pantry who is working under adverse conditions because their building is on lockdown.

Last week we provided a list of most needed items at HCS Family Services. It was a relatively short list. This week the list is much longer. They are currently in need of the following:

PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED CHICKEN, CANNED TUNA FISH, RICE, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, CEREAL, PANCAKE MIX, CANNED VEGETABLES, FRUIT CUPS, CANNED FRUIT, DIAPERS CLEANING SUPPLIES, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWEL, BATH SOAP

They are not relying on Amazon because things are going in and out of stock online. However, if you are inclined to include HCS in an Amazon order you place, you are welcome to do so.

Currently there is a red bin outside of HCS where you are invited to drop donations of items. The bin is emptied regularly. The address is 19 E. Chicago Avenue in Hinsdale. They are also accepting donations on their website at www.hcsfamilyservices.org



“Masked Angels” Stay Busy Filling Orders

We all need to do our part to flatten the curve of the Covid-19 virus and that includes wearing a mask when we are out and about.

Last week we let you know that CLC has some women who have teamed up to provide masks for anyone who needs them in our congregation and outside.

Carol Toman is busy at home sewing these lovely masks with donated materials from MariLynn Bergmark’s beautiful quilting fabrics and donated elastic from Carolyn Novak. Jane McDonald runs back and forth to the quilting closet at the church when supplies are needed from their vast collection. Debra Joslin is delivering masks and Maggie Swiess is sending them out via UPS. Carolyn Novak is at home sewing masks from “orphan” quilting fabric that didn’t make it into a quilt because it didn’t match; she is donating the bulk of her masks to the employees at Lurie Children’s Hospital so that when they are out in the community they can be protected.

Masks are sent out with detailed instructions on how they are to be handled to sanitize them before they go on to someone’s face.

The response to this has been overwhelmingly positive. Please let the church know if you *or someone you know* needs a mask and we will get it to you!



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Because we believe Christ is truly present in these elements, we seek to consume all of what is blessed. As you choose food and drink, choose an amount that you and those around you can consume. If you find that you cannot consume all of what was blessed, you may put it outside to nourish God's creation.

Finally, consider the community of the saints - visible and invisible - which join us at the table. Every time we commune, we believe that we share this table with Christians all over the world. We also believe that we share this table with the faithful departed and the faithful yet to be born into this world. The Holy Spirit gathers us into community. At every celebration of the Eucharist, this whole 'virtual' community gathers. You may want to gather with others in your household, or set pictures near you of saints of any time and place that gather at the table.

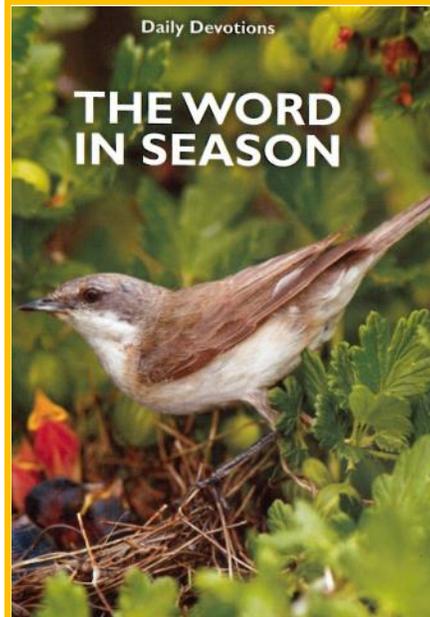
Now, as we gather through Zoom, we *are* community. The bread and wine don't just transform themselves. Rather, our act of worship, our invitation of God's presence between and among us, and our fulfilling Jesus' commands makes them for us the Body and Blood of Christ. In our worship, the presence of Christ comes fully among us. In the earthly elements together with the Word of God, the presence of Christ comes fully in, with, and under the bread and wine.

Pastor Erin



The Spring Rummage Sale has been rescheduled for Saturday August 22nd, 2020. We are looking for people who might have garage space that they are willing to let the church use to store donations over the summer. We will not be able to accept items at the church building until the week fore the sale; the week of August 16-21 because our fellowship hall needs to be kept clear for other activities.

If you have space for donated items, please email the church office and let us know. **This will not be initiated until the Shelter in Place mandate has been lifted.**



MISSING YOUR TRUSTY DEVOTIONAL?

Our latest edition of Word in Season was received right at the time we were told we could not gather in worship, so many of you may be missing this handy little booklet that offers words of hope and inspiration each day.

If you would like to have the church mail you one, please just give us a call or send us an email and we will have one in the mail for you right away.

630-325-2220
Office@yourchrist.org



Luther Seminary Communion Bread Recipe

From Pastor Erin's letter to the congregation you learned that she is going to be putting the Communion Liturgy back into the worship service starting on Easter Sunday. We thought it might be nice to share the bread recipe that we have been using at CLC since our bread baking ministry began several years ago.

Yield: 4-8oz. Loaves: Each loaf serves approximately 40 people (depending on the size of the piece). Sift dry ingredients 3 times .

2 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. white flour
1 ¼ tsp. Baking powder
1 ¼ tsp. Salt

Cut in 4 tsp. Oil

Mix water and sweeteners together; add to dry ingredients and mix well

¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. Very hot water
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp Molasses

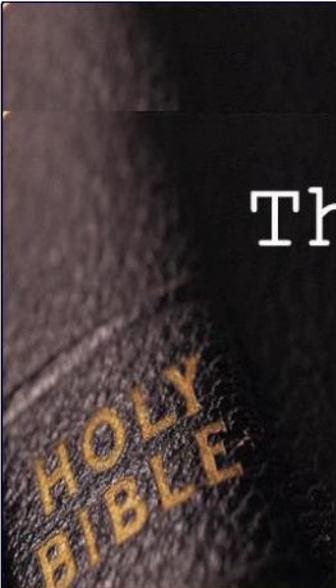
Dough should be a bit sticky

Divide and roll ¼" thick circle. Mark with a cross

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes

Remove and brush with oil, bake an additional 5-8 minutes, remove and cool

Note: a bread machine is used to mix the dough - if mixing by hand, mix well



The Virtual Bible Study

Next week we will begin a virtual Wednesday morning bible study at 11:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Wednesday Bible Study on April 15th

<https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlsclNYajlxMHNPm08yQT09>

Meeting ID: 277 247 648

Password: 021969

Dial by your location (for phone – audio only)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 277 247 648

Password: 021969



With all of our worship and meetings happening on the Zoom platform, it is more important than ever that it works for us all. We have a few technically savvy people who have agreed to be our **Zoom Technology Team**, and they are ready to help

They will be available 15 minutes before worship to assist, so call or log in a few minutes early to make sure that you can connect. If not, give the church a call and we will make every effort to connect you with a **Zoom Tech** team member.