

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 19, 2020—First Sunday in Easter



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

One of my favorite parts of the Easter season is joining this proclamation. I love hearing the joy and strength in our raised voices as we remind each other that Jesus is alive, and that fact means something. This year, this traditional Easter proclamation may ring a bit hollow, or at least quieter than we're used to hearing. Instead of a congregation of voices, it's me and my family. It doesn't feel quite as joyful. And yet, the truth of it remains. Jesus is alive, and that *means something*.

As we turn from a season of lament toward a season of joy, I have had many conversations with people who feel anything but joyful. We feel tired, stressed, overwhelmed, disappointed, anxious, afraid, sad and exhausted. Moments of peace and happiness seem few and far between, and joy feels unattainable. We hold on and wait for what comes next, for life to go back to 'normal.' We know that we cannot sustain this way of being. But somehow, we also know there is no going back. There will be no 'normal.'

These realities sit at the heart of our story these days. They also sit at the heart of the Easter story. In the midst of tiredness, stress, sadness, and anxiety, the disciples likely had a hard time finding peace, happiness, or even hoping for joy. They too must have known that they could not sustain this anxious, locked-in life. They too must have wanted life to go back to 'normal,' and they must also have known that 'normal' would not be coming.

And yet, even while they were fearfully locked in a room by themselves, Jesus came to bring the good news - Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He wished peace for them. He breathed the Holy Spirit on them. His very presence means something. The love of God cannot be defeated. It cannot be contained by evil or death or hell or locked doors. When things seem the most hopeless, the most devoid of joy, Jesus shows up alive.

As Christian people, we claim this reality. No matter what we feel, Jesus shows up alive. No matter where we are gathered, Jesus shows up alive. No matter how much our 'normal' has been destroyed, Jesus shows up alive. The love of God cannot be defeated. Not by us, or germs, or death, or evil, or even hell.

So during this season, I invite you to experience joy. And if you can't, that's OK. We still claim the reality that Jesus shows up alive wherever 'normal' has been destroyed. We still claim the reality that God loves us even when life is stressful. We still know that Jesus wishes peace for us and gives us the Holy Spirit to sustain us.

And so, from all the corners of the world we proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Faith Formation

Wednesday mornings at
11:30 a.m.
The Psalms

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

Christ Lutheran Church
of Clarendon Hills
60 55th Street
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
(630) 325-2220

office@YourChrist.org
www.YourChrist.org

Celebrationpreschool.com
(630) 325-3271



Christ Lutheran Church of
Clarendon Hills



@ChristClarendon

A graphic for a Church Rummage Sale. It features a church building with a steeple, a red lamp, a red chair, and various household items like a lamp, a chair, and a table. The text "Church Rummage Sale" is written in a stylized font. The word "Church" is in red, "Rummage" is in brown, and "Sale" is in black. There are also some colorful balloons.

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!

A graphic for a slide show. It features a green square with the text "slide show" in white. In the center is a black icon of a slide projector.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the slideshow for this Sunday for the Youth Ministry. The slideshow will also be uploaded to Facebook. Please join us for the Virtual Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. and during communion, check out the slideshow of our youth! Because He Lives!

Save Your Change for God's Global Barnyard



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.

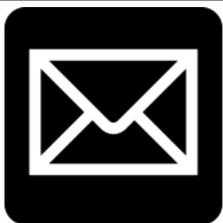
Flower
Garden
Coming this
Spring

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. Stay tuned for details.

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 continue 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 and have now been suspended along with our garbage pick-up and recycling.

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



YourChrist.org

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. To-



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.

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. This week we added canned soup and mac and cheese.

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, **however, the entrance for HCS is off of Maple Street.** They are also accepting donations on their website at www.hcsfamilyservices.org



Below is an excerpt from a thank-you letter we received after providing 50 masks to CLC member Andrea Palm for the organization she works for: Currently we have another 50 ready to be picked up. . .

First, I wanted to thank you for the masks for my immediate family. It eases my mind already knowing that we have masks to use. They are beautifully made as well!

Second, I wanted to share with you a little information about some of the individuals we serve and their staff who are in need of the masks:

I work for UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago. We are a nonprofit agency offering an array of services to 1600 children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities in 85 communities across the Greater Chicago area---including the west suburbs, south suburbs and the City of Chicago.

All of our clients are sheltering in place. Thank you so much for your time and talent! We appreciate what you are doing immensely!

*Andrea Palm, MSW
Director of Quality Assurance
UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago*

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!

Shelter-In-Place Photo Challenge

Last Sunday those of us who were part of the worship service on our computers were treated to a wonderful slide show during Communion containing photos of members of Christ Lutheran and St. James Lutheran. Comments we heard at our virtual coffee hour were that people

really enjoyed the opportunity to see pictures of our church families. So, we thought why not continue doing this as long as we are confined to worshipping in our homes. This Sunday we will get to see pictures of our Sunday School families getting ready for Easter worship.

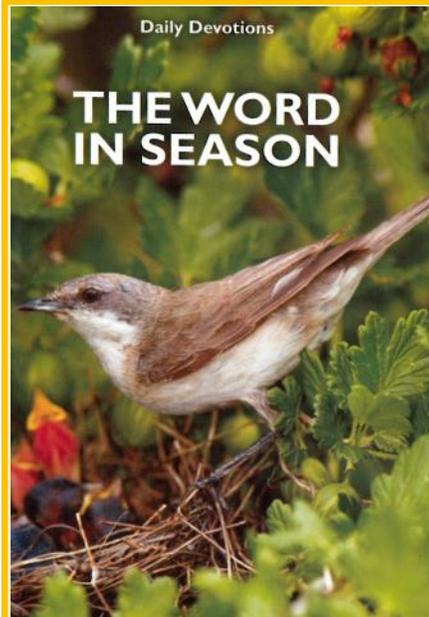
This week's challenge for next Sunday: Send us a photo of your family in the place where you are worshipping each Sunday morning. Is it on the couch? In an office chair? A recliner? Maybe you are one who adopted a CLC church pew when we took them out of the loft. Wherever you worship, we'd like to include you in our slide show for next Sunday. Let's stay connected during this time of isolation.

Photos can be emailed to office@yourchrist.org or texted to 630-846-7648.



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 before 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. 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



Mowing Teams

We don't know how long this Shelter in Place will last, but we do know that at Christ Lutheran Church we have always taken great pride in our building and grounds. We are the church on the hill that everybody in our community drives past and we want our grounds to be well cared-for. We are looking for people to join our lawn care teams for the summer or 2020. The teams mow and edge on a weekly basis, but the commitment is monthly. **You can do the work on your own schedule with the church's equipment. Call the office to volunteer. 630-325-2220.**

The Virtual Bible Study

We have begun a virtual Wednesday morning bible study on the Psalms at 11:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Wednesday Bible Study on April 22nd.

<https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlscTNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09>

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



With the libraries closed during this time, we are hearing that some of you are really wishing you had some new reading material. Not everyone has a Kindle or a Nook, and some of us just like to curl up with a good old fashioned book. So, during this time, we have moved the contents from the Little Free Library to a plastic bin under the overhang at the coded entrance of the church. Some of us have already dropped books in there that we have already read, and the idea is simple; take a book, leave a book. No due dates . . . It's quite literally a library without walls! Books have not been sanitized, so if you use the Little Free Library at CLC, please make sure to disinfect them before reading.