

# 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 5, 2020—Palm/Passion Sunday



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we enter Holy Week, and another week of sheltering in place, we have an opportunity to recognize that this week - of all weeks - invites us to use time in a different way. In the Greek language there are two

words for time: *chronos*, which is 'regular' time, and *kairos*, which is 'special' or 'liminal' time. *Kairos* indicates an expectant, set apart, or holy time. It can be a time-between or a moment of birth. Although we know that something new or different might break into our world at any moment, we are especially aware of this possibility during *kairos*.

A time of pandemic and national emergency certainly qualifies as a *kairos* moment. These days we spend our time at home, alone or with only immediate family, working or learning or teaching - maybe gardening or binge watching television or finishing our 'honey do' list that has been building for years. We have paused the busy-ness of life outside of our homes. Many of us, though, have also dived into life inside our homes with more on our to-do lists and an attempt to do as much 'normal' work as possible. Many of us, without even noticing, have tried to turn this *kairos* moment into the *chronos* of everyday life.

For all of us, this is bound to fail. We act as though all is normal, while our bodies, minds and souls know that things are fundamentally different. By now, we might be terribly lonely - or we might be frustrated with the people we live with. Many of us have cabin fever. We grieve for the normalcy of our regular life, even as we may celebrate spending more time at home. We experience anxiety and grief about the state of the world around us, and ourselves and those we love for whose health and lives we fear. Such is the state of the world, our lives, and our souls this holy week. We have been thrown into disarray - with all the joy and hope that brings for new beginnings, as well as all the anxiety and grief of losing our 'normal.' We journey with Jesus: on Sunday his joyful entrance to Jerusalem; on Thursday the betrayal by his friends; on Friday the pain of the cross; on Saturday the anxiety of being without hope; on Sunday the overwhelming experience of God's love that overcomes every opposition.

This year, as we make this journey, I invite you to step into these *kairos* moments. Recognize the grief and anxiety you experience and ask Jesus to meet you there - even as you meet Jesus in his grief and anxiety. Notice the dashed hopes you have, as well as what you hope will be different in the future and ask Jesus to meet you there - even as you meet Jesus in his dashed and renewed hopes. Pay attention to the blessings you experience in these strange days and ask Jesus to meet you there - even as you meet Jesus in the blessings of his story. Be aware of where God is asking you to go and ask Jesus to meet you there - even as you meet Jesus in the most desperate places that he has gone. Commit to doing what God is asking you to do and ask Jesus to meet you there - even as you meet Jesus in the act of dying because of human actions.

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## Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Traditional

## 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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[office@YourChrist.org](mailto:office@YourChrist.org)  
[www.YourChrist.org](http://www.YourChrist.org)

[Celebrationpreschool.com](http://Celebrationpreschool.com)  
(630) 325-3271

 Christ Lutheran Church of  
Clarendon Hills

 @ChristClarendon

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!



Due to the current COVID-19 Virus, we will be **rescheduling** the First Instructed Communion classes and First Instructed Communion. Stay tuned for the new class dates and service time for the First Instructed Communion. You may still email the registration form to [kristi-nadickens15@gmail.com](mailto:kristi-nadickens15@gmail.com) if you would like your child to participate.

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. **Please email pictures by Friday,**

**April 10th to [kristinadickens15@gmail.com](mailto:kristinadickens15@gmail.com) to be in the Facebook post for God's Global Barnyard.**

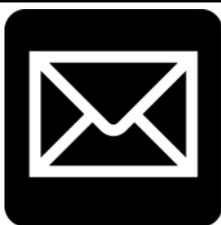
**Flower  
Garden  
Coming this  
Spring**

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 will continue to be on site doing a deep clean/sanitizing instead of their normal routine 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.



[YourChrist.org](http://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 ([yourChrist.org](http://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 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.



## Our Church Building: Closed, But Not Forgotten

Building and Grounds is keeping an eye on the facilities with weekly walk throughs. We are running water at each faucet and flushing each toilet to keep the drains and pipes flowing. We check for any signs of "running" toilets. We look into each room for signs of anything amiss. We check the drains outside at the bottom of the stairwells near the boiler room and in the memorial garden to be sure they are not clogged by debris.

The last deep cleaning of the building was done by our cleaning service on Thursday, March 26th. All surfaces, doorknobs, light switches, kitchen counters, bathrooms, handrails, water fountains, and more were wiped down over the past few weeks with a cleaner that is effective against the virus. The white tables and chairs that are set out in the Fellowship Hall were also wiped down. Inside the sanctuary and in the welcome center, all handrails, pew tops and other touch surfaces were wiped down. The staff offices, the fireside room, the nursery and the Sunday school rooms were deep cleaned. Given that a very limited number of people are allowed into the building at the present time, the surfaces in those unused rooms will stay clean. We let the cleaning service know that we are temporarily suspending their services, while we wait for the shelter in place order to be lifted and our facilities to be used again.

This week we also closed off the playground, in accordance with local playgrounds and parks being closed by the village and state orders.

Please let Jane McDonald ([jmcdonald323@gmail.com](mailto:jmcdonald323@gmail.com)) know if you have particular concerns about the building or grounds.



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**amazon Prime**

These days most of us have an Amazon Prime account. We buy books, pet supplies, maybe even groceries while we shelter in place. Next time you log in to your Amazon account, why not pick up a few things for our local food pantry. This pandemic has put them in a situation where they are serving more families than ever and under unfavorable conditions with their building being on lockdown. Items that are currently most needed:

**Adult Diapers  
Toilet Paper and Paper Towels  
Canned Fruit and Fruit Cups  
White Rice**

Or get creative; think about the kinds of things children cooped at home would enjoy. You can have them shipped directly to 19 Chicago Avenue in Hinsdale or drop them off at that address in the red bin. We will be communicating their most urgent needs each week during this time.



**LET US KNOW IF  
YOU NEED A MASK**

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.

CLC has some angels among us who are helping with this effort. Using fabric donated by MariLynn Bergmark and elastic given by Carolyn Novak, Carol Toman has been busy at home sewing these very lovely masks. If you would like one, please contact the church. Debra Joslin has offered to bring them to whomever needs them. Thank you to all these wonderful women !



## Birthdays

April 2	Pastor Erin Clausen
April 5	Andrew Kraner
April 15	Ed Llewellyn
April 17	Audrey Sprecker
April 19	Glen Yeater
April 20	April Bartosz
April 24	Eileen Nowak
April 26	Jon Ball
April 27	Andrea Palm
April 28	Brendan Krupp
April 29	Nancy Mizura

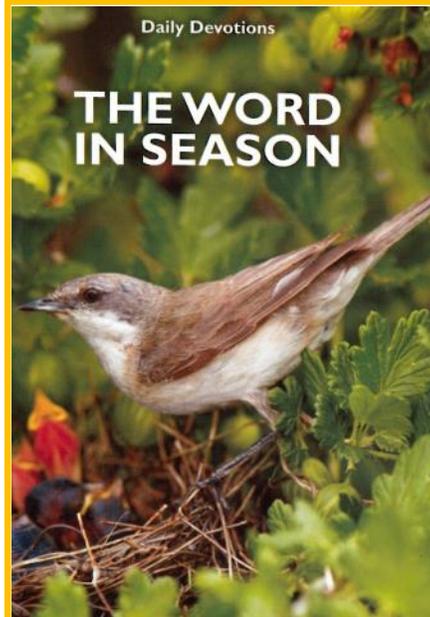
## Anniversaries April 20th—all of them!

Trudie & Lee Sinderson  
Joe & Diane Emry  
Steve & Susan Charlier



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

Pastor's Message Continued . . .



We know that even when things return to 'normal,' they will not be the same as they were before. We know that even though Jesus will rise into life again, nothing goes back to the way it was. We know that sometimes, life becomes fundamentally altered. This *kairos* of pandemic reminds us of it. May the *kairos* of Holy Week also remind us that, even when life becomes fundamentally altered, God remains steadfast. Jesus' love continues to uphold us. The Holy Spirit continues to gather, enlighten, and sustain us. And the community of the saints - of every time and place - continues to bring God's message of hope into all the world. May it be so for us this week. Amen.

*Pastor Erin Clausen*