

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 13, 2020 Third Sunday in Advent

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Can you believe it's less than two weeks until Christmas Eve?! This year's stresses may be coming from different places, but most of us are still experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety. As the "Holy Night" approaches, I encourage you to take time to let this season be holy. Let this

season be set apart. Recognize the presence of stress and anxiety... and then take a deep breath and know that Jesus will come, regardless of whether you're ready. Jesus will come whether or not the gifts are wrapped. Jesus will come whether or not we meet with family. Jesus will come whether or not you feel worshipful on Christmas Eve. Jesus will come.

Here are some things that might help during this season. Don't make this another "to do" item, but consider if any of these might make some space for the holy during this season this year.

- ✝ Take a few minutes each day for yourself. Light a candle. Read a few verses of Scripture. Take a deep breath. Look out the window or step outside to feel the crisp air. God is there.
- ✝ Do the best you can to connect with the people you want to connect with - and let go of the idea that you "should" connect with others! There will be time after Christmas to talk to others. Let this season be about those who bring the joy and peace of Jesus into your life.
- ✝ Plan how you want to worship this month, and build your schedule around that. Do you want to attend the worship videos? Set aside time on Sunday mornings. Do you want to come to church for reflection? Plan your day around that. Do you want to share worship with family, or do you want space for yourself? Plan for that ... and then keep an open heart and mind for the ways that worship works its way into your life - and plenty of grace for the ways it doesn't!
- ✝ Remember that Jesus will come, no matter what. Jesus will come in the midst of the stress and anxiety. Jesus will come to you, to us, into our world. And that will be enough.

May you wait and watch and hope and rest in the knowledge that Jesus will come. And may he come soon.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

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

Faith Formation

Thursday 12/16 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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Contact Information

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

Follow us on Social Media!



Time of Reflection offered to families during the week before

Christmas

We are delighted that plans are in place to invite families (up to ten members) to spend time in the church sanctuary during the days leading up to Christmas. The space will be warm and festive, as we will have some of our decorations up; familiar Christmas music will be playing. There will be an opportunity for your family to offer holy communion to each other; a place to light a candle for loved ones, and an opportunity for confession. If this sounds like something you would find meaningful, we hope you will participate.

Currently we have 20 minute spaces available from 6-10 p.m. on December 23rd and 24th with 20 minutes in between each visit for the space to be sanitized. If these time slots fill, we will plan to open up spots earlier in the week based on availability of volunteers. You may go to our website at www.yourchrist.org to reserve your family's place.

In order to keep everyone safe, the following guidelines need to be followed:

- Definition of "family" means a group of up to 10 people who are part of your "bubble"; meaning those in your household or extended family that is healthy, where there is no concern of the virus.
- Groups will be asked to gather on certain sides of the church (band or pulpit side) alternately by the volunteer in charge to minimize contact with the previous group, although space will be sanitized after each visit.
- You are asked to enter and exit through the north doors (unless handicapped accessibility is an issue), minimizing areas that will need to be sanitized. **Masks must be worn by all.**
- Each participant will need to sign a form indicating that they are feeling well and have no knowledge of having COVID or having been exposed to COVID.

We are thankful to the Worship Team and the COVID Resiliency Team for working to make it possible for each of us to have some time to pray, reflect, and dwell in the worship space that we miss so much, especially during Christmastime.



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.



The Church Council wants the congregation to know that some limited, but still important activities are taking place inside the CLC building. We are all saddened that we cannot yet gather inside for regular in-person worship, but our COVID resiliency team are carefully weighing the risks each week of having regular worship safely.

The building is being used by our Celebration Preschool and a more limited basis by the AMI music school both keeping with stringent safety guidelines and sanitation. This is important income for CLC. Our music groups have held only a few socially distanced recording sessions in the building, performing the music you hear on Sundays zoom worships.

Please continue to pray for CLC and those who use our building. We're still here and our ministries continue. Please don't hesitate to share any concerns, comments and questions with any council member, the church office or Pastor Erin.



Cards For A Cause

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a box of cards from Usborne Books and More for the Youth Ministry Fundraiser for Erick in Bolivia: the child that our Sunday School Ministry sponsors through World Vision International. We have met the goal of 15 boxes ordered to receive the free shipping! We are able to send an annual Christmas gift of \$110.00 to him and his family for 2020 and also cover the monthly commitments for November of 2020 through June of 2021! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

And a special thank you to the congregation members who have donated directly to the fund for Erick! Please consider making a donation of the monthly \$39.00 commitment to Erick's Fund at Christ Lutheran Church this month. The goal is to have the entire 2021 year covered for the monthly \$39.00 commitment.

Christ Craft Corner

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

Brookfield Zoo Community Tree Trim

Don't forget to check out the Holiday Magic at the Brookfield Zoo. Check it out here: <https://www.czs.org/holidaymagic> for tickets and time. Check out the Youth Ministry Christmas Tree on the West Mall, number 546. Take a picture of the family by the tree and send it in!



The Agape Ringers are featuring a free (unless you want to donate!) Christmas concert, "Sounds of the Season" premiering on Saturday, De-

ember 12, but remaining online through December!

Our own handbell director Jo Chiko is a member of this very well known group. Please see the link below! You won't be sorry you tuned in!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCk4lrrmFYU&ab_channel=AgapeRingers



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.

✝ 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.



District 86 Giving

Exceeded our Goals!!

As usual, the generosity of our congregation was overwhelming this Christmas Season as we blew past our goal of 20 families, and were able to provide \$100.00 worth of WalMart Gift Cards for **27 families this year!**

Thank you to everyone who stepped up early, and those who heard Deacon Steven Dickens' announcement during Zoom worship last week and texted or emailed; "Count me in!!!" With not being at church in person this year, we had our concerns that our goal might be a stretch. Your generosity will make a huge difference to those who are under-resourced this year and will now be able to provide gifts for their families. **God is Good!!**



Donations for gift cards that were donated will be reflected in 2020 giving numbers.

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?



Zoom in to our last midweek Wednesday for Advent Around the World! Maybe you will consider sharing your traditions from another country. We'll have crafts from two countries and from Norway, a "House-lights-out" pajama party which will include a cozy reading of the Christmas Story by Pastor Erin. You won't want to miss it!

Use this link for access to Midweek Zoom service

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!



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.