

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 January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

43 [Jesus said] 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy."⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; Matthew 5:43-45a

As we head into this inauguration week, we all bring our awareness of national

division and political strife. As followers of Jesus, we know this space of division and strife well. Jesus himself lived in a time of deep division and fear. The Pax Romana shaped the political landscape of Judea in Jesus' time. Pax Romana, Latin for "Roman Peace," describes a time in history when the Roman Navy kept the seas free from pirates and robbers and the Roman army kept tribal wars at bay. This 'peace,' though, came at a steep cost. Anyone questioning or acting against the Roman Emperor or Roman ideals was tried and often killed by the Roman state. The belief in the Roman Emperor as god prevailed. Therefore, anyone who opposed the emperor or his policies opposed god - to the likely detriment of the whole region.

Jesus came into this society with a ministry that insisted that only one God exists: the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus insisted that this God sent him to love and heal the people of the earth, to bring all people back into relationship with this God - and not the false god of Caesar. As Christians, we know the end of this story. Ultimately, the people of Judea cannot abide Jesus' message and his threat to their peace. The Roman state executes Jesus for his message of love and reconciliation.

No matter where he went, it seemed Jesus made both friends and enemies. Those who had a little power - the church teachers, Herod, and Pilate - seemed to have the most to fear and were Jesus' quickest enemies. The fear of those in power was potent and contagious. Purposefully inciting the people of Judea, these leaders manipulated the people to turn away from the God they knew. Fear propelled the people - even those who had once been intrigued or supportive of Jesus - to scream 'crucify him!' 'Kill him!' The God of their ancestors had sent a savior who spoke the truth. He brought a message of healing, forgiveness, emancipation, and love. But fear led the people of God to kill their savior.

As we engage in the world this week - and every week - we know that we are the people of God. Jesus instructed his followers - us - to spread the message of God's good news. If we are to follow Jesus, the words on our lips will also be words of healing, forgiveness, emancipation, and love. If we are to follow Jesus, our footsteps will lead us to the broken, the sinner, the ostracized, and the unloved. Jesus never suggested to anyone that the path would be comfortable or easy. Jesus himself wept bitterly and sweated drops of blood. And he invited people to follow him. To make friends, even if they would become enemies. Even if they would crucify him. May we have the courage to remain steadfast followers of Jesus, no matter what tomorrow may bring.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

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

Faith Formation

Watch for new schedule in
2021!

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

Kristina Dickens
Children & Family Ministries Director

Contact Information

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 Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills

 @CLCClarndnHills

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

Follow us on Social Media!



Youth ministry photos!

Please send in your Christmas, New Year's, and stay-cation photos for a youth ministry slideshow coming soon on Sunday, January 24th, 2021.

Please send photos in to Ms. Kristina by Monday, January 18th, 2021.

Christ Craft Corner Date Change!

The Christ Craft Corner will be on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your emails for more details.

Youth & Family Ministry Pen Pals!

Would you like to be a pen-pal? Our Youth & Family Ministry is beginning a pen-pal program to stay connected during this time of Covid-19.

Ms. Kristina will send out an email to all congregation members next week. Simply reply to the email with your contact information to sign-up. If you are not on our email list, please call the church office to be added!



Old Sheets For Use as Quilt Backing

The quilters of Christ Lutheran Church are looking for old bed-sheets or other fabric that we'll turn

into quilts to be sent through Lutheran World Relief to those most in need.

Rips and stains are acceptable and we'll just cut around them, but primarily we're looking for top sheets in decent condition for the backs of our quilts. **If you got new sheets for Christmas, don't recycle your old sheets, donate them to the Quilt Ministry where they can be repurposed into something useful that brings hope to others!!!**



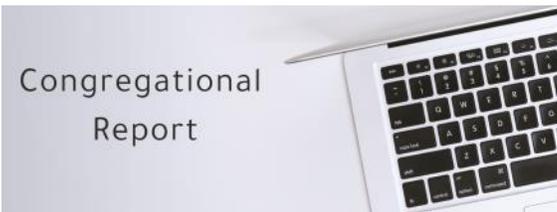
Sunday, February 7th 2021

Following 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church will be held on February 7th, 2021 following the 9:00 a.m. Zoom worship service. The meeting will be on Zoom. Watch your postal mail for a letter in the coming weeks that will address the format of the meeting, the agenda, how voting will

take place, etc. You will also receive a phone call from our Council President, Maggie Swiss, in the coming weeks.

We are fortunate that Pastor Erin has been the person responsible for guiding congregations through online meetings in her role at the Synod since March of 2020, and she will no doubt bring her wisdom and expertise to our congregation as we navigate an unusual format and an unusual year.



This is the time that all ministry leaders (Council Leaders as well as lay-led groups) are asked to provide a written report to be included in our Annual Book of Reports that will be provided to the Congregation before the meeting on February 7th. We realize that this has been a different type of year, but we also know that our congregation has done some fabulous things under not-so-fabulous conditions, so

we want to celebrate that! Please email your reports to the church office so that we are able to provide the report in written format in time for everyone to review it before the Annual Meeting on February 7th.



If there is anyone in the congregation who is interested in serving on the Church Council beginning in February, 2021, you are asked to reach out to Pastor Erin, Maggie Swiss (Council President) or Glen Orton (Council Secretary).



This past week two postal mailings were sent to each household from Christ Lutheran Church. The first one was a description of how this year's Annual Congregational Meeting will go this year, as we cannot meet in person. The second was a copy of the proposed 2021 budget along with a cover letter from Pastor and our Council President, Maggie Swiss. Please watch for these letters and read them; they contain important information.

As we prepare to ask the congregation to approve the 2021 proposed budget, we know that you may have questions, which would typically be asked at one of our pre-meeting Congregational Forums. We cannot meet in person for forums this year, but we have scheduled two opportunities for you to participate on ZOOM.

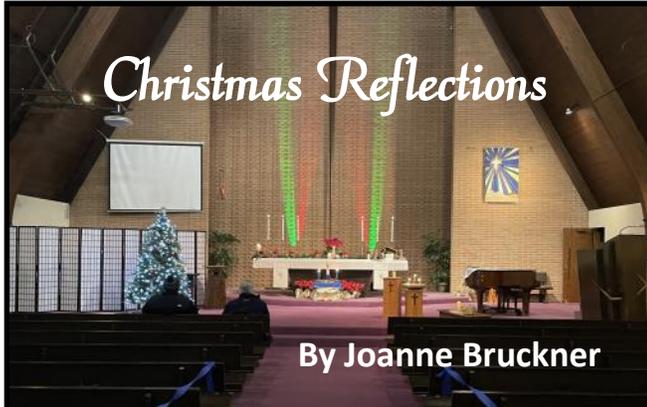
On **Sunday, January 24th** and **Sunday, January 31st** you will be invited to stay on after the worship service on Zoom where we will offer an opportunity to participate in budget forums facilitated by our church leadership. We hope that everyone who is able will take the opportunity to participate in these forums in order to gain a solid understanding of the 2021 budget. For those who do not attend the worship service, you will still log on with the link used for the service.



It's that time of year again; where faithful members of Christ Lutheran Church stand outside of the Jewel in Clarendon Hills to collect non-perishable food and grocery items for HCS Family Services Food Pantry in Hinsdale. This year the Souperbowl of Caring Food Drive will take place on Saturday, February 6th, 2021 from 10am-4pm. There is a sign-up sheet at yourchrist.org.

As you can imagine, the pandemic has hit hard, and we are told that the need in our community is at least twice what it was in 2020. At a time of the year (after the Christmas holidays) when the pantry shelves are typically pretty bare, our help is needed more than ever.

Volunteers are asked to sign up for two hour shifts on Saturday, February 6th. We will stand outside both of the entrances of our local Jewel in Clarendon Hills asking Superbowl shoppers to pick up an extra few groceries to benefit the pantry. We will also have a place where people can make cash donations. Currently their most needed items are: *canned veggies, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, ready-to-eat soup, canned fruit, cereal, tomato products, condiments, baking supplies, baby diapers, adult diapers, toiletry items and cleaning supplies*. In addition, HCS has partnered with a food broker in Minnesota, so your dollar can go **eight times further**. You may donate online at yourchrist.org or mail a check to church if you would like to help out.



My husband, son and I attended the Christmas Reflections church visit on Christmas Eve.

We had lit our luminarias in front of our house before leaving for this event. When we arrived at the church, we were greeted by two of our fellow church family members. The church was beautifully decorated and Christmas hymns were playing in the background. The altar up to the cross was lit with green and red spot lights for the season.

To be actually inside the church on Christmas Eve in the year of a pandemic was a dream come true.

To sit in a pew and pray was so meaningful. The baptismal font, the prayer stations, the candles and communion stations were well thought out. Lighting a candle for people lost and for hope in the world was truly moving. The lit advent wreath and nativity reminded us that the miracle was here. Even though the decorations were different from years gone by, in my mind's eye I could see the matching trees with the Styrofoam ornaments meticulously hung. It brought a smile to my face. So many precious memories with our church community.

The tranquility of the church was a balm in a time when so much stress and turmoil was a sometimes-overwhelming element of our daily routine. There was no rush, no hustle-and-bustle, no sense of urgency. Just a lovely remembrance of the true meaning of Christmas- the birth of Jesus. I cannot thank you enough for making Christmas Eve so special. It makes me count all of our blessings. There is truly hope, love and faith in the world.

After we left the church, we went to see the many, many luminarias in downtown Clarendon Hills (also a tradition). It was a magical night. Your hard work, caring and making every member of the church feel important and wanted, is truly appreciated.

Faith and Friendship, Joanne Bruckner

You will be happy to know that our Worship Team already has plans in place to offer this opportunity to the congregation during Holy Week, 2021.



Women of CLC are invited to log onto Zoom each Friday morning from 10AM to noon. Bring your knitting, your quilting, crochet project or just your coffee, and take this opportunity to catch up with other women in our congregation.

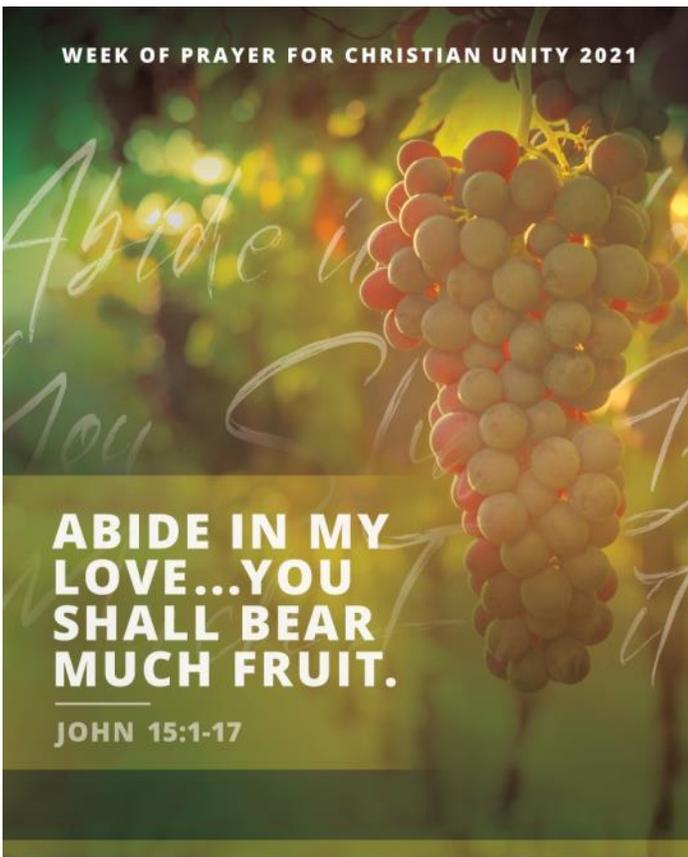
Hosted by the Friday morning knitting and quilting groups.

Click [this link](#) to join in the fun!

We hope to see you there!!!

To dial into the group via land line:

Dial the number 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 607 820 870
Passcode: 022901



This coming week we will celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2021; a time for Christians everywhere to put aside their differences. Clearly, this is important.

We will be celebrating this week of unity for eight days beginning this Sunday, January 17th, when Pastor will use it as a basis for her sermon.

Watch your emails each morning this coming week, beginning on the 17th, as we will be sharing daily meditations, suggestions for bible reading related to the topic of the day, and more.