

# 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 24, 2021 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' - Mark 1:17*

This Sunday, we hear this story of Jesus calling friends to follow him. The phrase "I will make you fish for people" exemplifies the heart of Jesus' whole ministry. Usually, the goal of fishing is to make a catch. To have a

final product to show or to sell. For Jesus, though, the goal of fishing is to encounter people. To enter into relationships. To find people and invite them to follow. Jesus seeks these relationships first and expects that the products will follow. Throughout the gospels, we see that sometimes the disciples do well and sometimes they don't. Sometimes they follow Jesus closely and sometimes they are stumbling and confused. But Jesus never drops or leaves them; he prioritizes the relationship and believes that these relationships lead to the manifestation of God's good news in the world.

At CLC, we seek to follow Jesus and manifest God's good news in the world. We make some excellent products in this process. Worship, Bible studies, Sunday school and confirmation are core to our ministry. Quilting, knitting, mask-sewing, food and goods collections, and sponsoring Erick manifest God's good news in the world. Administrative and planning meetings make all of this possible. We take pride in doing these things well. Our varying ministries manifest God's good news in the world. This is good news!

However, Jesus' invitation to fish for people shows us that Jesus' focus is on relationships. Jesus' ministry guides toward an understanding that God's good news places relationships first and products second.

How do you think that we at CLC do on prioritizing relationships first? Where do we follow Jesus' lead to focus on invitation, kindness, grace, and perseverance? Where do we follow Jesus into humility, courage, and vulnerability? And where do you think we as a congregation - and you and me as individuals - could reexamine and refocus our priorities?

This year, we will be casting a vision for what CLC's ministry will look like in the future. As we do this, let's consider first how we engage one another. What words, thoughts, actions, and intentions will invite deeper vulnerability and relationship between us? How will we build on those relationships so that we more closely follow Jesus?

When we focus on *how* we build discipleship relationships, I believe - as Jesus does - that the things we produce will naturally manifest God's good news in the world. Sometimes these products may be excellent. Sometimes they may be stumbling or confused. But they will all have at their heart the grace and love of Jesus. And that makes all the difference.

*Pastor Erin*

### Sunday Worship

9:00 am and noon on ZOOM  
[www.yourchrist.org](http://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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(630) 325-3271



Christ Lutheran Church of  
Clarendon Hills



@CLCClarndnHills



clc.clarendon.hills

Follow us on Social Media!



## 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. Deliveries will be made early next week!



## 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. Be on the lookout for an email from Ms. Kristina! 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 sign-up.



It's not as festive as decorating for Christmas, but it has to be done.

Thanks to Bonnie Bucholz, Rachel Krohn, Glen Orton, Rob Sorensen and Jean Schwier for taking all the beautiful sanctuary Christmas decorations down and putting them back into the attic for next year.

Thanks to Glen Orton and Jim Rice for taking down the Nativity in front of the church, and to Glen for seeing to the Memory Tree.

Thanks to Debra Joslin and Hal Hancock for the loan of the Memory Tree this year.



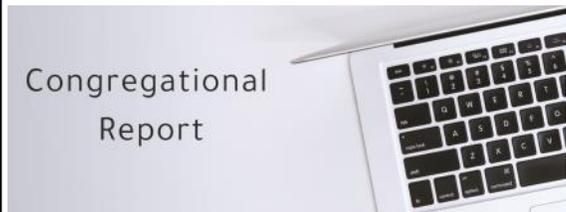
## Sunday, February 7th 2021

### 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 communication from the church relating to the meeting.

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.

Please watch your postal mail for a hard copy of the **Annual Book of Reports for the 69th Annual Congregational Meeting**. Our church leaders and ministry leaders have worked hard to provide a written overview of accomplishments and challenges over the past year which was like no other. We hope that you will take the time to read through it and gain appreciation for the good ministry that has been done at Christ Lutheran Church in the midst of global pandemic. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the church office via phone or email



and we will be happy to send you a pdf of the document.



If there is anyone in the congregation who is interested in serving on the Church Council beginning in February, 2021 names must be submitted by noon on Sunday, January 24, 2021.



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](http://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](http://yourchrist.org) or mail a check to church if you would like to help out.



## Women's ZOOM Gathering

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