

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 31, 2021 4th Sunday After Epiphany

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. -- 2 Corinthians 12:10

Recently, I was having a conversation with a colleague about our deepest prayers these days. I shared that often my prayers sound downright bossy: God, you've got to do something about world peace, because that's beyond me. God, I'm counting on you to find our way through this pandemic, because there's nothing I can do about it. God heal this person, because you're the only one I know who can do it - and I know that you can! My colleague laughed and said we might just be praying the same prayers!

I don't mean any disrespect with these prayers. In fact, I actually just mean them. I know that there are small and important steps that I must take as a disciple that will lead toward world peace, or finding our way through, or healing. At the same time, I'm strongly aware of my small position in the world in relation to these things. When I reflect on it, I realize my small position in the world in relation to almost everything! We must always accompany prayer with thoughtful action. And yet, our actions alone - without the prayer and guidance from God - cannot accomplish what we seek.

About an hour after that conversation with my colleague, she left a message for me. She said that God had sent us a message through one of her friends. They had just sent her this verse: *Whenever you've done everything you can do, that's when God will step in and do what you can't do. 2 Corinthians 12:10*

These words remind us that we are weak as humans - but through Christ we are made strong. We can demand God's help and be assured that it will come through Christ. God may not always agree with the things we pray for - and many of us know that God doesn't always answer "yes" or "no," but sometimes "wait" or "you do it" or "here's another way." But for all of us who recognize our small place in the grand scheme of things, this verse reminds us not to give up.

Whenever the concerns of life, church, world, or universe seem too big, it's OK to recognize that - in fact - they are. Compared to these concerns, we are but specks of dust. We may be powerless and unimportant. And yet, weak as we may be, we are made strong through Christ. Through Christ, the answers will come. In God's time, peace and hope and healing will manifest. And in the meantime, Jesus makes us strong in our weakness. Strong enough to take those steps, say those words, and do those things that we can. All so that God might be revealed, again and again, through all for which we pray.

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

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



@CLCClarndnHills



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

Follow us on Social Media!



**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.



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.

By now each household should have received for postal mailings from the church;

- ✝ A letter explaining the format of the meeting on Zoom
- ✝ The proposed 2021 budget with a narrative overview by Matt Ramirez, church treasurer
- ✝ The Annual Report
- ✝ Ballots for each voting member in your family.

If your household did not receive these documents and you plan to participate in the Annual Meeting, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will make sure you receive them.



Last Sunday the Church hosted the first of two "Budget Forums"; opportunities for our congregation to ask questions about the budget for 2021 before it will be put forth for approval at the Annual Meeting. The meeting was well-attended, and many thoughtful questions were raised. This Sunday we will host the second and final Budget Forum. Participation is simple; stay on Zoom following the service and you will be invited to a virtual 'break out room' for the meeting to commence. If you will be participating in the meetings without having attended the worship

service, the link is the same as for worship and is available on the front page of the Christ Connection in two places.



For everyone who is using Zoom to attend these meetings, please make sure you have updated Zoom on your computer **before the meeting** so that you don't experience frustration or become unable to participate.

- Open Zoom
- Click on the picture icon in the upper right hand corner of your screen
- Drag the "drop down" until you see "updates" and proceed



On the day of the Annual Meeting we will take a roll call on ZOOM; whether you are on your computer or on the phone, we will record attendance. After the meeting has concluded, you should fill out your ballot. We have allowed one week for ballots to be received. They must be either **postmarked by February 13th**, or you may drop them off in the mailbox at the south entrance of the church by **Sunday, February 14th by noon**. Thank you to everyone for your flexibility as we navigate our Annual Meeting in a much different way this year.



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.

Thank you to the volunteers who have signed up to work the day of the Food Drive. If you have not and would like to help, we will find a place for you. We are also asking participants to take photographs the day of the drive and submit them to the church office for an upcoming communion slide show. If you are planning to do any shopping ahead of time, you are always welcome to make arrangements to drop items off at the church. Currently the most needed pantry items are:

- Canned veggies**
 - Rice, Pasta, Pasta sauce**
 - Canned Fruits**
 - Soups (ready to eat)**
 - Cereal**
 - Condiments**
 - Tomato products**
 - Flour and baking supplies**
 - Toiletries**
 - Sanitary products**
 - First aid supplies**
 - Baby Diapers**
 - Adult Diapers**
 - Baby wipes**
 - Toilet paper**
 - Paper towels**
 - Cleaning supplies**
 - Monetary Donations**
- (every \$1.00 donated equals \$8 for the pantry)**

*Thank
you*



We would like to thank everyone for the cards and emails of sympathy for our son, David Dunwoody. Because of Covid we were only allowed 12 people for a 2 hour visitation. We know so many more people would have been there, but in these times there is not much we can do. David had cancer that went very quickly. We still cannot believe has happened and we pray his two boys find peace. Pastor Erin came and gave a wonderful speech and we are very thankful to her. Again thank you all for your caring.