

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 3, 2021 Second Sunday after Christmas

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This week, time will move us from the season of Christmas to the season of Epiphany (or if we're being really specific, the season *after* Epiphany). On January 6, we celebrate that the wise men followed the star and found Jesus - God-with-us. We celebrate this new revelation of who God is - not only a God "out there," but also a God

"right here."

Throughout these next Sundays, we will see God revealed again and again. Each revelation will tell us something more about who God is through Jesus - who he is and what he does. Each revelation broadens our understanding of what God is up to in the world. Each revelation also gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own faith experience. Where and how has God been revealed to us? Where do we look for God? Where does God find us unexpectedly? Where can we allow our experiences (or the experiences of others) to broaden our own understanding of who God is and how God works?

During these days, we will also prepare for our congregation's annual meeting. Our congregation will also be asking questions about how God is being revealed to us and where God is calling to us. Throughout this coming year, the council will lead the congregation on a journey of hopeful discovery as we uncover the map of God's future for us.

As you know, we have entered into another year of covenant with St. James. This live-giving relationship gives us some space to breathe and discover. At the same time, while St. James will have no problem meeting their financial covenant with us, they are also preparing to dissolve as a congregation. We expect that this covenant will not continue into 2022. Thus, CLC's council and I are committed to discovering with you what God has planned for CLC for the new year. This year, the council will put forward a budget that mirror's last year's. We expect not to make big changes this year, as we discern our path for next year.

Still, big decisions await us: a new covenant partner, staffing changes, seeking a part-time pastor, and other possibilities lie ahead of us to discover and discern for 2022. Now we imagine, brain-storm, and dream. In coming months we will explore possibilities. Then we will choose the path which we believe God is calling us to take. Some decisions will be difficult. Sometimes we will not agree. And yet, God is already preparing a path for us - if only we have the courage to let God reveal it.

During this season, be courageous! Take time to look for where God is present in your life. Take time to look for where God is present in our church. What might God's revelation look like for us now? We need not be anxious, because we know who holds our future - a God who plans great things for God's people.

So imagine, dream, hope, and let God fill your life and our congregation. May God be revealed to us again this season - through story and possibility. And may we, together, discover the next steps for CLC on this journey.

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

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Happy New Year 2021!

Youth & Family Ministry Sunday School and Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, **January 3rd, 2021.**

Congratulations to Elena Svoboda...winner of a \$25.00 gift card for the Christ Craft Corner on Sunday, December 20th.

The next Christ Craft Corner will be on Sunday, January 24th, 2021. Please watch your emails for more details.

Youth ministry photos!

Please send in your Christmas AND New Year's Eve photos to me for a youth ministry slideshow coming soon!

Please send photos in by email to kristi-nadickens15@gmail.com by Monday, January 4th, 2021.

Many blessings for a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Thank you to everyone who sent in suggestions for our Annual Hymn Sing which will take place on Zoom this Sunday morning.

Our staff has been busy pulling together recordings and recording new music for us to enjoy this weekend as we sing our favorite carols and hymns for the last time until Christmas 2021!

See you on Zoom!



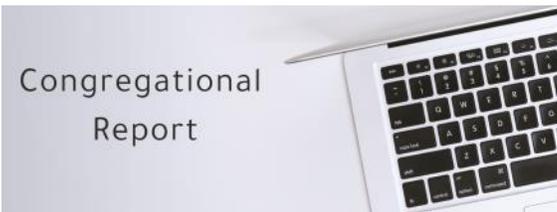
Sunday, February 7th 2021

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 by January 15th 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).



The Worship Team would like to thank those who decorated the church this year: Avery Hancock, Hal Hancock, Debra Joslin,

Rachel Krohn, Glen Orton and Jean Schwier. Also, a thanks to those who volunteered for Christmas Reflections: Bonnie Bucholz, John and Linda Gerren, Debra Joslin, Glen Orton, Nancy Mizura, Joe and Nathan Svoboda. Thank you all!

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



A Worship service led by the ELCA bishops elected in 2019

Wednesday, January 6, 2021
8pm Eastern | 7pm Central

LIVE on synodical Facebook pages and websites across the ELCA