

Christ Connection

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 June 14, 2020— Second Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor's Message



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4

"Wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in my [Jesus'] name, I am with them."

Matthew 18:20

Friends in Christ,

As people of faith - and particularly as disciples of Jesus - we are called to follow Jesus wherever he may go. As Psalm 23 indicates, following Jesus does not prevent discomfort or fear - even fear for our lives. Rather, the Shepherd's staff comforts us with the knowledge that we are guided in these difficult paths by none other than our savior. We also know that we walk these paths together - indeed, whenever we gather in Jesus' name, Jesus has promised to be with us.

Whenever we gather, we do so knowing that Jesus guides us. However, sometimes people of deep faith commitment disagree about how or where Jesus guides us. Sometimes the path seems clear, and sometimes our understandings diverge. These divergences become opportunities to learn from each other and grow as Jesus' disciples.

As your pastor, I have studied the ancient Biblical languages. I study theology and ethics. I engage in conversation with experts, colleagues, friends, members of our congregation and our community. I commit to lift up the ways that our faith informs our actions in the world. I seek to discern where sinfulness and evil exists in myself, in our congregation, in our community, and in the world. And then, I lead myself and others in the difficult work of recognition, lamentation, confession, and action toward healing the brokenness caused by that sinfulness and evil. As baptized children of God, we commit together to 'work for justice and peace throughout the world' (*from the Baptism/Affirmation of Baptism service in our hymnal*). When I recognize and name sinfulness and evil, I do not condemn or shame. Neither condemnation or shame lead to confession or restorative action. Instead, recognizing and naming sinfulness and evil seek to do just that - recognize their existence. This is difficult, painful, uncomfortable work. It is also the work of the faithful, as we follow Jesus into difficult, painful and uncomfortable places.

As disciples, we must recognize and confess sinfulness. Our opinions about how we do this, though, may diverge. If ever you find yourself upset or even outraged about how I choose to lead you in this confession, that's OK! As your pastor, I am charged with leading you toward Jesus - not leading perfectly. As your pastor, I commit to working for healing and forgiveness - not knowing how each person's spiritual path will unfold. Anytime you find yourself upset or uncomfortable, please let me know. Let's have a conversation. Let's learn from one another. Let's discover where Jesus leads us together. I seek to be with you on your spiritual journey, not the expert on how that journey "should" unfold.

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Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. & noon
Instructions at
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

Wednesday mornings at
11:30 a.m.

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
Kristina Dickens
Children & Family Ministries Director
Mara Leonard—Organist

Contact Information

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Christ Lutheran Church of
Clarendon Hills



@ChristClarendon



Flower Garden is Planted!!!

The flower garden has been planted! Thank you to Glen Orton for helping with Thrivent Funding and Dan Cramer and Steven Dickens for helping Ms. Kristina with the prepping, planning, and planting of the Youth Ministry Flower Garden! The garden will attract hummingbirds and bees alike! Check out the garden!



Summer Youth Ministry Program

The Sparkhouse Summer Youth Ministry Program for ages 3 - 8th grade begins this Sunday, June 14th! Please check your emails for the week's lesson.

2020 - 2021 Youth Ministry Year Registration

Registration forms will be sent out on Sunday, July 5th, 2020 for the coming youth ministry year! Please watch your emails for details!

Do you want to be a "virtual" Assisting Minister in Zoom Worship? It's pretty simple with a smart phone and a bible. We are looking for people who would like to record a short video reading the first lesson and be featured in our Zoom Worship. Call or email the office to let us know if you'd like to help by being a Virtual Assisting Minister. You will be given instructions.



Pastor's Message



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Confessing and lamenting one place sinfulness exists does not deny that sinfulness exists in many other places. Confessing and lamenting the pain of one community does not deny the pain of other communities. Confessing and lamenting particular sins leads to particular restorative action, which is the end goal of any confession. Wherever you see communities in pain, invite me and others to confess the particular brokenness, sinfulness, and evil behind that pain.

Last week, we responded to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's call for churches across the ELCA to recognize, confess, and lament the sins of racism and white supremacy that are present in ourselves, our congregations, and our communities. This week, we join again with congregations across the ELCA to commemorate the 9 martyrs at Mother Emanuel Church, who were murdered by a member of an ELCA congregation. Racism and white supremacy are part of the legacy into which each of us is born. These realities are part of the original sin into which we were born - the sinfulness that we neither control nor can by ourselves eradicate. Rather as disciples of Jesus, we are called into recognition, lamentation, confession, and action to heal this brokenness in the world. Again, we may diverge in our understandings of how we best do this - and we can talk about that. I want to talk about that. We follow Jesus into the valley of the shadow of death together. Only together do we experience the comfort of Jesus' presence and the salvation which comes when 2 or 3 gather and follow Jesus for the healing of the world.

Pastor Erin

The Virtual Bible Study



We are currently offering virtual Wednesday morning bible study on the Psalms at 11:30 a.m. led by Pastor Erin. Resources for this bible study are on our website at www.yourchrist.org.

[https://zoom.us/j/277247648?](https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlscTNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09)

[pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlscTNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09](https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlscTNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09)

Meeting ID: 277 247 648

Password: 021969

Dial by your location (for phone - audio only)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 277 247 648

Password: 021969

DIALOGUES

Beginning in July we will begin a new topic for Wednesday Bible Study: *Dialogues on Race*.

Learner Guides are available through Augsburg Fortress for \$9.99 each and can be purchased through the following link:

[Dialogues on Race Bible Study](#)

They are not necessary in order to participate in the Study.

— ON —
RACE

We are in need of people to serve on the CLC Mowing Teams! Volunteers will be properly trained to operate our riding lawn equipment and will rotate on a schedule every few weeks. Contact the church office for more details.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Keep praying for our world and each other.
- Continue to protect yourself and others by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.
- See someone without a mask? Tell them to call the church and we will provide them with one.
- Make a donation to the Quilting Ministry so that

we can continue to provide supplies to those making masks. **Thank you to those who have already done this.**

- Drop off some items at HCS Family Services Food Pantry in Hinsdale. There is a red bin outside for this purpose.
- Add a book or puzzle to the "Little Free Library"
- Make a donation to provide gift cards for students from Hinsdale South High School who will soon be facing the summer months without an adequate food supply.
- Log on to the following link for a seminary friend of Pastor Erin's. Pastor Angela lives in Minneapolis, near where George Floyd was killed. Her kids need summer clothes, and the looters burned both the Target in her neighborhood and the post office (where a box of clothes from her mom was also therefore lost). She isn't able to go to another neighborhood, because as a black woman, she doesn't feel safe. So, we're invited to help take a direct action and make sure her kids have the clothes they need. <http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/4f1a5a39690f484580a150fab7cb6795>



How Can I Help?

CLC's Covid Task Force is asking for help getting the building ready to re-open for in-person worship.

The Covid Task Force has been meeting via Zoom weekly to review current guidelines both from the State and the Metro Chicago Synod relating to reopening our building. While we are not at the point where we can meet in person for worship, we are happy to report that the fire pit will be available for gatherings of 10 or less (with no building access and appropriate social distancing measures in place) effective immediately. If you would like to reserve the fire pit for a small gathering, please call the church office and make a reservation. Additionally, any members wishing to use our parking lot may also do so by calling and asking to make a reservation.

As it relates to in-person worship, the first step in the CLC process is the Governor moving the State of Illinois into Phase 4, which would allow for gatherings of 50 or less. With that said, we feel that there are pro-active things we can do now to start preparing for in-person worship. We are looking for volunteers who can help us be in a good position when the time comes. Guidance from the Synod suggests removing items from the sanctuary/common areas to eliminate sanitation of those items between each use. Therefore we are asking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Removal of all hymnals and pew bibles from the pews and relocate to Fireside Room;*
- Removal of all pew pencils and prayer request forms from the pews;
- Clear out displays in the Welcome Center to create a larger space for social distancing;
- Remove name tags from the racks and box up until they can be used again.

****If you would like to borrow a hymnal for home use, please contact the church office.***

If you would like to help out with these tasks, please call or email the church office and we will schedule a time for you to safely be in the building to help us accomplish these first tasks. We will be sharing more information from Pastor Erin on opening the church via e-mail in the coming weeks. In the meantime, thank you for your flexibility and grace as we navigate uncharted waters.