

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 March 22, 2020—Fourth Third Sunday in Lent



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into

barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?... ³⁴Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” *Matthew 6:25-27, 34*

In this time of uncertainty and high anxiety, Jesus' words seem to mock me. What does he mean, do not be anxious about my life? If a global pandemic teaches us nothing else, it definitely teaches the elusiveness of living. Eating, drinking, and clothing are less of a concern for me, but many people are impulse- and panic-buying because of anxiety. Then again, if I don't have an income stream, those things become much more concerning.

Not knowing of any kind causes anxiety. That anxiety heightens when what we don't know are the fundamentals of life: who can we be in contact with, will we have enough to eat, will we get sick or even die, will someone we love die without us around? God created us to be in community, and managing life when we feel alone challenges our central understandings about life and ourselves.

Yet Jesus' words are no less true in this moment than in the moment that Jesus spoke them. While preparation and good stewardship are important values, anxiety does not do anything to help us. Our whole lives are always at the mercy of circumstances outside of our control. Our very life depends on the community of people around us. That, too, has become more clear in these past few days.

I don't think that Jesus meant these words to mock us, but rather to remind us that our whole lives are held in God's mothering arms. God's embrace does not prevent anxiety, but it does bring comfort during anxious times. Even though we don't know what the future holds, we know God holds the future. We may find peace there.

For most of us, though, we also need to find peace in other places as well. Maybe you find peace in praying for peace within yourself and around the world. I find peace using an app on my phone called 'Pray as you go,' which offers daily prayers and Bible readings set to meditative music. You may also find peace in action. Call to check in with your friends, your neighbors, the people down the street with all those kids. You may have things you can donate or share with your neighbors or other congregation members. You may be able to send thinking of you cards to healthcare workers. You may find peace in slowing down and enjoying the time you are spending with other members of your household. If you live alone, you may find peace in listening to music or reading - things you might not otherwise have taken time to do.

We do not know how long this time of constant change and uncertainty will last. We do know, though, that our fear and anxiety will not add a single day to our lives. May we invite God's presence within and among us. May we experience God's love and hope for our future. And may we slow down and notice the peace of God, which passes all understanding, surrounds us in every moment.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Contemporary

Faith Formation

Watch for information on virtual Bible Study opportunities.

Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor

Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant

Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Worship

Bonnie Bucholz, Traditional Music Director

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



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The Church Rummage Sale has been postponed to a later date due to the rules around social distancing amidst the current Covid-19 pandemic. Please continue to save items.



The Church building will be closed until further notice amidst the current Coronavirus concerns. Access codes for our congregation members and all outside groups have been disabled.

Under the guidance and with the entire CLC Council, the Administrative Quadrant is currently fo-



ocused on ensuring that we respond to and document our actions related to the COVID-19 National Emergency. Attached to this Christ Connection Bulletin is a summary of CLC's management strategies to address immediate COVID-19 concerns.

CLC purchased Zoom, an online audio and video meeting service to facilitate virtual services and group meetings. This "Zoom" tool is available to any CLC group. To schedule your meeting and learn how to use the tool, contact:

Carol Toman

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We will be working on Succession Planning to ensure we have detailed operating procedures for all CLC functions and on Redundancy Planning to ensure we have trained back-up staff and volunteers for all essential functions.

We encourage you to provide your feedback and suggestions for serving our church family.

Please make sure to view the document CLC Covid-19 Management Strategies which will provide helpful information about how we will stay safe and still connected through this uncertain time. It was sent as a separate attachment in this email.



Please continue to collect spare change for our Lenten Mission Project over the next few weeks. Once we see how much we have raised, our Sunday School children will be deciding what to purchase.

Oxen and Plow (\$1,000) A pair of oxen helps create record-breaking harvests, provides fertilizer and gives families the gift of time

Cow (\$500) A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly provide financial stability.

Fish Farm (\$250) Can provide a lifetime of meals to a community.

Goat (\$50) Fresh milk is very nutritious and can be used to make yogurt and cheese to sell.

Pig (\$30) Within months after birth piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds; providing a big payoff at the market.

Honeybees (\$20) Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth-helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market

Chicks (\$10) Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for hungry families.



**Flower
Garden
Coming this
Spring**

Youth & Family Ministries is excited to announce that we will be planting a flower garden this May! We are planting flowers that will attract bees that will be providing nectar and pollen as food and creating shelters in the garden space which will create new habitat for bees, which is important, as their natural habitats become less and less abundant. **Please stay tuned for the gathering date to plant the garden.** We invite all the families to come

out in your best garden clothes and work side by side with your little ones. The garden will be a great teaching tool for Sunday School children as they will be the ones in charge of maintaining the garden.

Celebration Preschool is also excited for the new flower garden and is already planning on using it as a teaching tool for their children. If you would like to donate towards this new project, we are in need of gardening gloves, fresh soil, and fertilizer. Please reach out to Dan Cramer or Kristina Dickens for donations.

Building Closed

In response to the CDC's instructions on social distancing and minimizing the spread of Covid-19, the church building is currently closed. Staff will be working remotely, and the phones are forwarded. Our contracted cleaning service will continue to be on site doing a deep clean/sanitizing instead of their normal routine to ensure that we return to a clean and healthy church.

All space partners have been notified of this, and codes for the congregation and our space partners have been disabled until further notice.