

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 29, 2020—Fifth Sunday in Lent



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When we feel panic, when we feel afraid, when we fear for our lives and the lives of those we love... When we worry about health and finances, balancing jobs and time at home... When we are distanced

from others... This is the time to be church. The love of God and neighbor transforms fear and stress into hope and peace. These days, maybe you are finding a lot of time to yourself, to worry or pray or laugh. Maybe you are finding no time for yourself in the midst of all that life demands today. Take this moment to breathe in the love of God. Allow this moment to remind you that we are connected, loved by God and neighbor. We are church. We use poetry to pray:

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

-Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for ever
more.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Traditional

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



@ChristClarendon

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 sale will likely be in the summer of 2020.



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.



We will keep all families updated via email on a weekly basis. There will be a new way to view the Sunday School lessons beginning *this* Sunday. Please check your email in the next few days on how to access the lessons. Please be patient as we are working on a new way to interact virtually with Sunday School lessons, readings, activities and more! Please read your Youth & Family Ministries emails and check out our Facebook page regularly!

Sunday School Phone Directory Coming

Ms. Kristina will be putting together a Sunday School Phone directory for the Sunday School families. The idea is for the Sunday School children to call or Face Time with other children to keep in touch virtually. If you **do not** want to be in the Sunday School directory, please email Ms. Kristina at kristinadick-ens15@gmail.com by this Sunday, March 29th, 2020. The directory will be emailed to the Sunday School families on Monday, March 30th, 2020.

We hope that everyone is continuing to save their spare change for the Christian IMPACT Team's Lenten Mission project! Once we are passed the Shelter in Place and are able to worship together as a church family, we will be collecting the banks. Please make sure your name is on the bank so that we can properly credit you for your giving statement.



A Note for Sunday School parents:

This year we are asking families to save spare change to give to God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. All the children received a barnyard coin box to color, a sheet of barnyard stickers, and a barnyard coloring book.

Please use this time to use the barnyard coin box as a teaching tool during this time. You can use it for math, chores, rewards, and more! We are teaching our children to leave a Christ-like footprint on the world.

Please email pictures by Friday, April 3rd to kristinadickens15@gmail.com to be in the Facebook post for God's Global Barnyard.

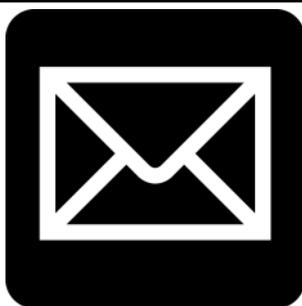
Flower
Garden
Coming this
Spring

Youth & Family Ministries is excited to announce that we will be planting a flower garden! 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.**

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.



YourChrist.org



Ways To Give During Shelter In Place

Thank you for your faithful support of Christ Lutheran Church during this uncertain time. While we shelter in place, the staff and

clergy are still working remotely in order to minister to our congregation. Unfortunately, whether we physically meet in our church, or worship from our homes, our financial obligations must still be met. Your gifts during this time are more important than ever and we are grateful for your generosity. We at CLC feel that our support staff and clergy are our first line of defense in keeping our congregation spiritually healthy and connected during this emergency. We rely on your support and are able to offer you new ways to make your gift. You may mail your offering to the church or you may donate on the CLC website (yourChrist.org) using the "My Gift" button with either a credit card or through an ACH withdrawal. If you have any questions you may call our office: 630-325-2220 for assistance. Together we remain strong and trust that God has a plan.

alone together

During this time, when we are called to stay home and away from others as much as possible, it is especially important to stay connected -- to one another, to the church at large, to all humanity, and to all of God's creation. How might Christ Lutheran Church help us do this?

- CLC is providing virtual worship (online and/or phone).
- The church council has committed to making regular phone calls to members. These are well-being calls. We want to make sure that people's needs are met, whether it be needs for errands, resources, prayers, or social connections.
- We are finding that some of our contact information is outdated - especially as increasingly people are discontinuing landline phone service. Please contact the church office by phone or email to update your information if it is out of date. We plan to update our roster and send it out as a pdf next week. Please read below for information about this project. You may also use this roster to reach out to others.
- Prayer also fosters connection. Please email or call with any prayer requests and we will distribute them. We will also be forwarding you the prayers of the people from Sunday worship. You can pray these prayers throughout the week.

If you have needs, whatever they are, please let us know. Similarly, if you are willing and able to provide support to others (errands, resources, social connection, prayer, etc. . . .), please let us know and we will match you with others who need or can benefit from your support.

Let us continue to build and nourish our common life, even in this time of physical separation.

Yours in Christ,
Katherine Burson

Let's Stay **Connected**

During this time of being "alone together" we would like to provide the congregation with an updated directory to keep everyone connected. We are in the process of updating our church roster to reflect the most current information, and would like to send that out to you next week. If you have changed something; perhaps you no longer use your landline or have changed to a

different email provider, please let us know so that we can provide the correct information to our church family. You can email the office to give us changes or just confirm the information that we have in our database. The roster is set to be distributed via email next Thursday. ***If you do not want this information shared, you are able to opt out; just email the office and let us know.*** The office email at Christ Lutheran Church is office@yourchrist.org.