

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 May 10, 2020—5th Sunday of Easter

Take a moment today to breathe;
To revel in the life that is breath, the very Spirit of God within you

Take a moment today to laugh;
To discover the joy that bubbles up when you
are taken by surprise

Take a moment today to notice someone;
To really see them and the
presence of God inside of them.

Take a moment today to grieve;
To know the depth of your heart's desire
and what your soul longs for

In these moments, may you meet God,
experience God, know God;
And may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your
hearts and minds in Christ Jesus

Pastor Erin



Sunday Worship

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

Faith Formation

Wednesday mornings at
11:30 a.m.
The Psalms

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



HELPING with hard-to-find items

Last Sunday at virtual coffee hour, it was suggested that when we do put our masks on and venture to the store, if we see something available that is hard to find, such as hand sanitizer or wipes, we consider buying extra to drop off at church. If we can establish a small stockpile of items, then when someone has a need, they can call the church and make arrangements to come pick up a product that they are in short supply of. We are at the church at least once a day, so if you would like to drop something off, please leave it at the south doors.



Republic Bank

A great big thank you to Republic Bank for helping us navigate and ultimately funding the Paycheck Protection Program grant for Christ Lutheran Church. With the overwhelming number of organizations clamoring to get this done, the folks at Republic Bank in Hinsdale walked us through the process, making sure we had exactly what we needed to secure funding to help CLC continue to carry out our ministries.

While the congregation has continued to be faithful with offerings, we are not collecting donations from space sharing partners (like the Celebration preschool) while our building is closed. The funds from the Paycheck Protection Program can help to pay staff and cover 'lost income.'



President's Message

"There are no great things, only small things with great love."

At the core of our humanity there exists the need to make a difference. We are called to feed, clothe and give comfort to those in need. These are the basics of our Christian upbringing. It is the premise on which we are to live our lives. Often times it takes a genuine tragedy to thrust us, unwilling at times, from our own little world into action. The multi-tasking, ever connected way many of us live our lives, allow us to hide in our personal consumption that veils the needs of others right before us. We are now in the midst of a pandemic which has enveloped the world and has brought us to a grinding halt. It makes us take pause because the world which we take for granted may not return in the exact way we think. I would ask how we can reflect Christ's footprint and offer blessings to our brothers and sisters in this time of uncertainty. Dare I ponder to believe that this may be one of the greatest opportunities of our lifetime, to share our humanity and our treasures with each other? Many times, I sit in awe of the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church. In the midst of crisis, whether we are mourning the loss of one of our own or we are poring over the ministry plan and budget wondering how to maintain vital programs, or providing for food pantries and meals for the District 86 brothers and sisters in need, we band together as one cohesive group and tackle the "enemy." Our faithful have assembled a brigade of mops and buckets after a torrential rainstorm that left our fellowship hall looking more like the shallow end of a toddler's pool. I have experienced the quiet and gentle servants of Christ joyfully cleaning and polishing the Sanctuary in preparation for Easter. Years ago, while I was in Washington D.C., Mother Teresa was being honored and I was fortunate to be in the room when she was escorted in. I will never forget the feeling that came over me when this tiny, humble, lady, hushed a room merely with her presence. There was no doubt that God was present in that moment. One of Mother Teresa's more quotable sayings, "Love is not something you say, it's something you do" has become my personal mantra.

Today, it is fitting to shine a light on a ministry that evokes the spirit of Mother Teresa's work. Our heartfelt "thank you" to Carol Toman, Jane McDonald, Carol Novak, Jeannette Tamayo and her Mother Gladys who are making masks. Thank you also to Marilyn Bergmark who has shared her reserve of beautiful fabric and Debra Joslin, Evelyn Reed, Annette Armstrong and Ed and Ann Borsuk who have delivered or distributed masks. When you engage any of these faithful, please thank them, pray for them and know that they are making a difference. There is nothing more honorable than to be part of something greater than ourselves. I am truly humbled by the kindness and love of this ministry.

In closing, I just want to say that I am so proud of our Church. It is my honor to be part of our leadership team. God's grace, blessings and peace be with each of you, every day of your life.

Maggie Swiess
Council President

In Our Prayers this Week

New Prayer Concerns

- For the **Schwier and Dickens families** following the death of Bob Schwier on Wednesday morning. Sympathy cards can be mailed to: 505 Maple Lane, Darien, IL 60561
- For Joe Chiko's father, **Joe**
- For **Gabriel**, friend of Joanne Bruckner
- For **Peyton**, Nancy Mizura's grandchild.
- For **everyone affected** by the Coronavirus

For Our Homebound

- Annette Armstrong, Anita Olson, Ty Johnson, Jim Schneider and Bernice Yeater.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- For **Marti**, Carol Toman's friend
- For **Rosie**, friend of Jeannette Tamayo
- For **Kaitlin**, friend of Jeannette Tamayo
- For **Dawn** recovering from surgery
- For **Kate**, friend of Joanne Bruckner
- For **Mark**, friend of Matt Sanders.
- For **David**, friend of Joanne Bruckner
- For **Valerie**, friend of Kristina Dickens
- For **Jason**, Bob Schwier's great nephew battling cancer.
- For **Pastor Todd**
- For **Rosemary**, friend of Pat Johnson, facing cancer surgery.
- For Pastor **Sue Sauerberg**
- For **Peggy**, friend of Joanne Bruckner facing a cancer diagnosis
- For **Dan**, friend of Matt Sanders.
- For **Norman**, friend of the Giron's friend with glioblastoma
- For **Howie**, the Giron's neighbor undergoing lung cancer treatment
- For **Jeff**, Jean Schwier's brother
- For **Don**, Madeline Batke's brother in law
- For **Dick**, friend of Madeline Batke
- For **Peter**, friend of the Charlier family
- **Chris Luby**, Carl Nodus' brother-in-law
- **Kathy**, Carol Toman's sister
- **Yvonne**, Pastor Bergmark's sister.
- **Howard Beauchamp**
- **Michael**—Luis Giron's nephew
- **Bob Cox** — Tricia Giron's father
- **Parker** —grandson of Bonnie Bucholz' neighbor
- The congregation of **St. James Lutheran Church**

Sustained Support and Encouragement

- For all of us amidst the uncertainty and anxiety surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- For **Scott LeMaster** stationed in Saudi Arabia



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. Please read your Youth & Family Ministries emails and check out our Facebook page regularly! Each week, there is a Sunday School lesson video link emailed to all the families. Along with emailing that link the video is posted to the Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page. Please check out the lesson for the week with your child(ren).



Director of Marketing for Christ Lutheran Church

We are seeking an enthusiastic applicant to promote the mission of Christ Lutheran Church, primarily through the use of technology, including social media and CLC's website.

Christ Lutheran seeks a person who will play an important role in the spiritual climate of the church and will be a primary introduction to the church for guests engaging CLC's technological platforms. Please view the complete job description at www.yourchrist.org, and contact office@yourchrist.org with interest.



Members of the Christian IMPACT Team and Pastor Erin met in a Zoom meeting with Ms. Ayesha Truman, a social worker at Hinsdale South High School last week. Ms. Truman informed the team that there are some families in our community that are at high risk; some are homeless, living in hotels, others are scattered and sleeping on couches at relative's homes, some are in their own homes but without an adequate food supply. With the school year ending in three weeks, these students will not be able to access even the free food that is provided during the school year.



We would like to offer an opportunity to our congregation to donate funds for gift cards that can be purchased by the school and mailed out over the summer months to help these families stay safe and healthy.

If you would like to participate, you may donate through our website at www.yourchrist.org or you may mail your donation to the church; just indicate that it is for District 86 so that we will know to designate the funds.

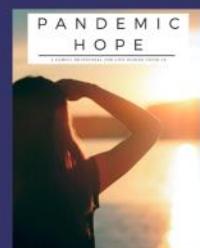
WHAT CAN DO?

With the uncertainty in our world due to Covid 19 and social distancing, it's pretty easy to feel defeated these days.

Here is a helpful list of things we can all do during this time:

Since this list is cumulative, items new this week are in red at the bottom:

- 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 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.
- Last Sunday we heard about a project that Lutheran Social Services is embarking on where you can make a donation to allow an incarcerated person to record a children's book so that their child can hear a story being read to them by their own parent.
- **Donate some elastic to our mask making ministry.**
- **If you see a hard-to-find item on the shelves at the store, pick up a few extra and drop them off at the church so that we can make them available to those who can't find needed items.**



A Family Devotional
For Life
During Covid-19

Sunday School Parents: Have you been reading the Pandemic Hope Devotional as a family? The devotional has been emailed out to all families again this past week. Please take the time to read it daily and maybe work on the activity with the children! It can be used for a break between schoolwork or as an indoor activity during this rainy weather. And why not take a photo and send it in for the slideshow!

We may be out of your sight, but YOU are not out of our mind!

Your Council and Ministry Teams are hard at work during this time of physical distance. It has occurred to us that many of you are unaware of all the projects and discussions we are having, because we don't see each other in the hallways or at fellowship. I am going to try my best to bring you all into the loop and offer you all ways to connect and share ideas with us.

We have received feedback from members expressing gratitude for being able to reconnect with our congregation. The recurring message is the hope that we will continue to find a way to keep those members connected with us, even after this virus finally leaves. There are those who have expressed the enjoyment of worshipping in their "jammies" while savoring that second cup of coffee. Please know that we are taking every opportunity to explore what new ways we may find to keep us connected and to begin the discussions and plans for how we operate when the ban is lifted. Our Administration Team, headed by Bill Lyon and Jeannette Tamayo are taking the lead on constructing an infrastructure with your safety in mind and guidelines to find our new operational procedures.

Right about now, you may be saying, "sounds good, where do I fit in?" We are counting on you. Let us know what is most meaningful to you, whether it is parts of worship, working on ministry teams, bible studies or just sharing conversations. As we think about the future, we want to make sure that YOU are part of that plan and that we, as your leadership team, provide you with meaningful ways to be CLC.

Our door is always open for ideas and conversations, so please call, email or connect with us however you are comfortable. If you need any particular phone numbers, you may contact me at any time. 630-330-0150 or mswiess@ameritech.net We are all counting the days till we can be together again!

Blessings,
Maggie

Shelter-In-Place Photo Challenge



Last Sunday those of us who were part of the worship service on our computers were treated to a slide show during Communion containing photos sent in by families showing photos of some culinary accomplishments during shelter-in-place. This Sunday's we will get to see some of our members showing us what they are doing to stave off boredom; *"Everybody's doin' a brand new dance now . . ."*

This week's challenge for next Sunday: If you have pets, send us photos of you with your fur babies and we will include them in next Sunday's Communion Slide Show. Because worship is pre-recorded, we would like to have these photos no later than Wednesday at noon. If you don't have a pet, we still want your pictures; it helps keep us connected with each other during these times.

Upcoming prompts:

Memorial Day, May 24
Pentecost, May 31

Take a photo of yourself holding up a sign thanking an essential worker
It's all about the fire! Send us campfire pictures or fire-themed photos.

Photos can be emailed to office@yourchrist.org or texted to 630-846-7648.



We have begun a 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?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlsclNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09>

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



Ways To Give During Shelter In Place



During this time when we are not worshipping together in person, there are still ways for you to donate to the ministry and mission of Christ Lutheran Church:

You may mail donations in to the church. We bring in the mail each day and deposits are made weekly.

You may log on to the church website www.yourchrist.org and there is a button on the main page of the website for you to either use a credit card or an ACH withdrawal from your bank account. We have enhanced the giving function on our website so that you can identify General Fund, Roof and Parking Lot Fund or District 86.

The Zoom logo, consisting of the word 'zoom' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a blue background.

Before joining your next Zoom meeting, please be sure that you update your Zoom client to version 5.0. To upgrade Zoom, you can visit this link – www.zoom.us/support/download - to download and install the new 5.0 version. This is recommended by the folks at Zoom for added security.