

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 November 22, 2020 Christ the King Sunday

Pastor's Message



Last year around this time, I was privileged to spend a couple of weeks in Malawi. Malawi is a country on the eastern side of Africa. While there, I spent a week building a house with other Habitat for Humanity volunteers in a village called Kalore. The temperature hovered around 100 degrees for the entire week, as we built, played, learned to communicate without language, and even learned to dance! As we learned the history of the village of Kalore and the family for whom we were building the house, we learned that a life-changing event had occurred only a couple of years before. A Muslim aid organization had come into the village and built a well with a water pump.

This well gave the gift of life to the people of Kalore. Where once they had to walk 2 miles each way to gather water - taking up much of the day - they now have more time to care for children, work on their trades, or work in the fields. When they are thirsty, they walk to the pump with a cup and drink. The women gather at the well to laugh and share stories and even cry. They take turns pumping water for one another. And they are generous! They pumped and carried water for us to mix mortar. They pumped and gave water to us to learn to carry - well knowing that we would spill it all over ourselves and them! Having grown up with freely flowing, clean, running water, I never had to experience how essential access to water really is to life. Never have I been more aware of the value of water or its ability to change lives. When Jesus says that he gives us living water, I remember the well at Kalore. Jesus gives water that changes lives. Suddenly, everything becomes different. Jesus invites us to gather to laugh, share stories, and even cry. Jesus invites us to take turns sharing the water with each other. Jesus invites us to share generously - regardless of where the water will end up. Regardless, even, of whether those with whom we share appreciate the value of the water.

As we head into this week of Thanksgiving, let us become more aware of all of the 'little' yet essential gifts God provides to us. Food, clean water, shelter, finances, emotional support, roads, libraries, stores, supply chains... all the things that make life work (even imperfectly!) come to us as gifts from God. As we head into this week, too, we remember the invitation to share the living water of Jesus. That water we first touched in our baptism. The water of life. For us, drinking water - clean and freely flowing - abounds. For Christians, baptismal water - clean and freely flowing - abounds. For all, Jesus' living water - clean and freely flowing - abounds. May our choices - both our actions and inactions - share this living water. May we choose generosity and grace. And may we meet at the well. To laugh. To share stories. To cry. And to drink deeply of the water of life.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 am and noon on ZOOM
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

December 3 and 17
Thursday at 7PM
on ZOOM

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

Contact Information

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clc.clarendon.hills

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Memory Tree Service

Sunday, November 29th at 2 p.m.

All are invited to gather in person on November 29th as we celebrate and remember our loved ones who have died by hanging an ornament on the Memory Tree.

A long-standing Christ Lutheran Church tradition, the Memory Tree service is an opportunity for us to gather outdoors in our Memorial Garden where we will have a lighted tree set up. After a short service, all will be invited to hang an ornament on the tree which will stay lit throughout the night during Christmastime.

Personal Safety Guidelines

We will be observing the Tier Three COVID Mitigation Restrictions, which means that only 10 people at a time may participate. *If we have a large turnout for this service, you may be asked to wait in your vehicle until the group before you participates in the service.* Pastor Erin is committed to

holding this service multiple times so that everyone has a chance to participate. For everyone's safety we are asking that masks be worn and social distancing be observed. You may walk to the tree through the south door and turn down the Growing Grove hallway or simply walk from your vehicle. **Please bring a non-breakable ornament to hang on the tree.**



Time of Reflection offered to families during the week before

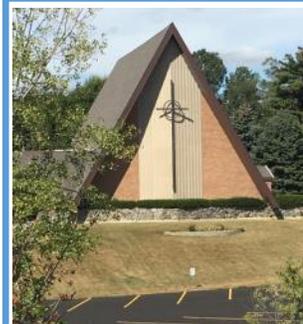
Christmas

Christmas will be different in 2020; with the COVID restrictions around safety and sanitation, we find ourselves trying to figure out what it will "look like" this year.

Our church will be offering families and individuals a chance to spend some time in our

worship space during the week before Christmas with the hope that it will provide peace, a chance to pray, listen to Christmas hymns, light a candle, admire the decorations and feel closer to God.

The Worship Team is in the midst of plans to allow for you to sign up for 30 minute time slots the week leading up to Christmas Eve for a time to reflect at church. The sanctuary will be decorated, hymns will be playing, and it will be an opportunity for any who wish, to dwell in the peace of God's house. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.



Capital Campaign Update

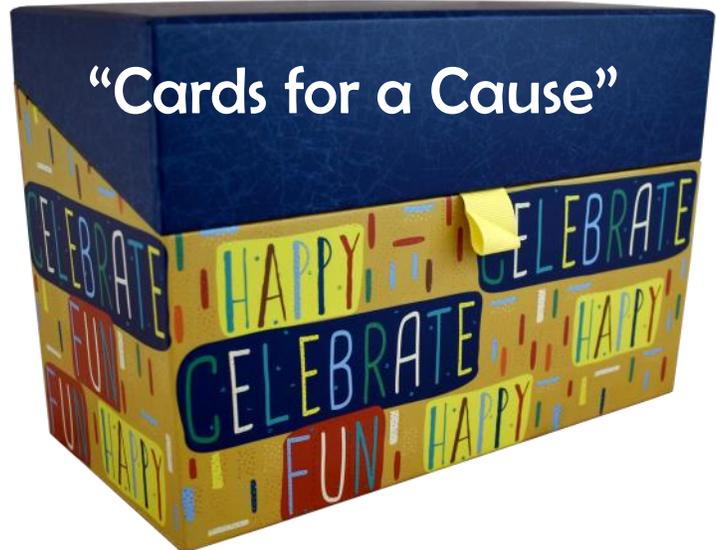
The goal of the Capital Campaign is to cover the costs of the property improvements made in summer 2017. In May 2017, the congregation voted to borrow money from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to enable the roof and parking lot projects to be completed.

As of Sep 30, 72% of pledges made to the campaign have been received. We have also received an additional \$42,267 in donations.

If you have any questions on the campaign, please reach out to any council member.

Jane McDonald

Capital Campaign Committee



How often do you find yourself running to the store at the last minute for a birthday, anniversary or other type of greeting card, spending sometimes upwards of \$5.00 each? We've got good news! From November 16th to November 30th, Youth & Family Ministry will be sponsoring a **"Cards for a Cause" fundraiser in collaboration with Usborne Books and More.**

Choose from the Cards for All Occasions (Box 1), the Cards for All Occasions (Box 2), the Holiday Card Collection Box, the Thanks & Blanks Box, or the Kids Birthday Box. For \$30 you will receive a lovely keepsake box containing 30 unique cards; that's \$1 each! If you choose The Holiday Card Collection Box, you receive 50 cards! It couldn't be simpler for you; just place your order and it will be delivered by one of our Youth & Family Ministry families. Buy for yourself; buy to give away as a gift and save someone else the time and trouble of running to the store for a greeting card. It couldn't be more important to order from this fundraiser. Our group earns \$13* per box of cards sold, with no maximum earning potential. **Watch your email for specific ordering instructions**

Proceeds will support Erik, the child our Sunday School supports through World Vision. Sunday School offerings are used to support Erik throughout the year; since we have not been in Sunday School, our fund for Erik has dipped into the negative.

The order will be submitted on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020. All money for the orders have to be received on or before Monday November 30th, 2020.

You can expect to receive delivery of the cards approximately two weeks later. Youth Ministry families will then deliver the cards to those who purchased them...just in time for Christmas!



Gift Card Fundraiser In Full Swing!

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas Holidays are upon us and our annual Gift Card Fundraiser is about to begin. **How is it a Fundraiser for CLC?** You pay the face value of the gift card; Christ Lutheran Church pays a few percentage points less, and is able to keep the difference to help fund the ministries of our church.

There are two ways you can take advantage of this convenient opportunity:

✝ Support District 86 families by purchasing and donating **\$25 gift cards to either WalMart or**

Target which will be distributed by the school to families identified to be under-resourced this year. This year, our goal is to give \$100 in gift cards to each of 20 families for a goal total of \$2000! **Please help Youth Ministry and Christian IMPACT reach this goal for 2020. The order deadline to support District 86 is Sunday, December 6th before students leave the campus for the Christmas holiday.**

✝ Take advantage of the over 700 vendors in many different denominations available for your own Christmas gift giving. **The order deadline for Personal Christmas Shopping is Sunday, December 20th.**

How Does it Work?

- Print out the ShopWithScrip form available [here](#)
- Choose the gift cards you wish to purchase and fill out the form.
- Issue a check **made out to Christ Lutheran Church** for the face value of the cards you order.
- Place the check and order form in an envelope and either mail it to church or drop it in the mailbox at the south entrance (coded door).
- Orders are placed on Monday mornings. You will be contacted when the order is ready for you to pick up.
- Any questions? Please call the church office at 630-325-2220 and we will be happy to help!
- Don't have Internet/Printer? Call the office and we will mail you a form or make arrangements over the phone or pair you with a "computer buddy" volunteer who can help with the process.



Please join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Tricia for the Christ Craft Corner. Zoom information has been emailed to all Sunday School families.



Thank you to all the families who came out this past Sunday to decorate the Youth Ministry Christmas Tree! It was cold and windy, but we had a lot of fun and laughter! Check out the pictures from the Tree Trim on the Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page!



The Quilting Ministry would love to have your gently used but no longer needed flat sheets to use for quilt backs. Please call the office if you have some to donate. The quilting ministry continues to work faithfully during COVID to create quilts for LWR.