

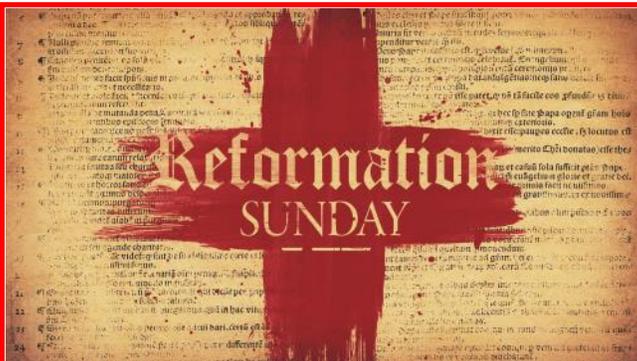
Christ Connection

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 October 25, 2020—Reformation Sunday

The Ethiopian Church:

“Honor the Reformation’s African Roots”



[2017 marked] the 500th year anniversary of the launching of the Protestant Reformation in Germany. Commemorations will be held from Memphis to Mombasa to Mumbai to Munich. Yet, most events and books on the Reformation explore it without any reference to African Christians.

This silence is profound, and I would like to break it by offering possible Ethiopian connections to Martin Luther and the Protestant movement. Luther launched the Protestant Reformation in 1517, but he had begun that year fascinated with Ethiopian Christianity. That will come as a surprise to many of today's Christians, even scholars, who are accustomed to discussing Luther and the Protestant Reformation as solely European subjects.

But Luther esteemed the Church of Ethiopia because he thought Ethiopia was the first nation in history to convert to Christianity. Located in Africa — beyond the orbit of the Roman Catholic Church — this first Christian kingdom, according to Luther, served as an older, wiser, black sibling to the white Christian kingdoms of Europe. In a sense, the Church of Ethiopia was the “dream” for Luther, a true forerunner of Protestantism.

As an ancient church with direct ties to the apostles, the Ethiopian Church conferred legitimacy on Luther's emerging Protestant vision of a church outside the authority of the Roman Catholic papacy. As a forerunner of the Protestant Reformation, the Church of Ethiopia embodied the gospel message more robustly and faithfully.

Ethiopian Christians practiced elements of the faith absent in Roman Catholicism, elements Protestants would later adopt communion in both kind, vernacular Scriptures, and married clergy. Absent from Ethiopian Christianity were practices Protestants would dismiss: the primacy of the Roman pope, indulgences, purgatory, and marriage as a sacrament. Luther's theological fascination with the Ethiopian Church was illuminated in 1534 in his face-to-face dialogue with an Ethiopian cleric, Michael the Deacon, where Luther tested out his theological portrait of the Ethiopian Church.

Recalling the dialogue with Michael the Deacon, Luther later stated: “We have also learned from him, that the rite which we observe in the use of administration of the Lord's Supper and the Mass, agrees with the Eastern Church ... For this reason, we ask that good people would demonstrate Christian love also to this (Ethiopian) visitor.” For his part, after having Luther's Articles of the Christian Faith interpreted to him, Deacon Michael proclaimed: “This is a good creed, that is, faith.”

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Sunday Worship

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

Faith Formation

Saturdays at 10:00 AM
Check out page 2 for more information on Dialogues on Race and Timothy & Titus studies

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

Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills
60 55th Street
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
(630) 325-2220

office@YourChrist.org
www.YourChrist.org

Celebrationpreschool.com
(630) 325-3271



Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills



@ChristClarendon



clc.clarendon.hills

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Luther extended full fellowship to Deacon Michael and the Ethiopian Church, an invitation Luther withheld from the Bohemian Brethren (the Hussites) and Reformed Churches connected to Zwingli. From his dialogue with Michael the Deacon, Luther must have been thrilled to learn that what he had rediscovered in his reading of the Scriptures was already present in the Ethiopian Church.

His reforms were based on more than the early church of his imagination. For Luther, the Church of Ethiopia was the historical proof that his reform of the Church in Europe had a clear historical and biblical basis. The revelation that Ethiopian Christianity possibly had links to Protestant Reformation is a game-changer for what is generally thought to be an exclusively European phenomenon.

The admission that this cross-cultural global exchange between Africa and Europe shaped early Protestantism disrupts the narrative that the Reformation was solely the product of western civilization. By recognizing the contribution of Ethiopian Christianity to the Protestant Reformation, we can join Luther in acknowledging Ethiopian Christianity as a forerunner of the Protestant Reformation.

Dr. David D. Daniels is Henry Winters Luce Professor of World Christianity at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and a bishop in the Church of God in Christ.

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The outdoor services this fall have reminded us all how much we miss seeing each other in person. It has been so nice to be able to visit with each other, even socially distanced and sporting masks. We seek connection; it's a huge part of what makes us human.

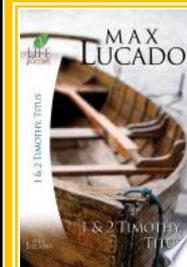
In early Spring when COVID hit and we began worshipping remotely, we updated our church roster. We sent it out to everyone via e-mail so that people could easily reach out to each other via a phone call, email or text message and stay connected. Back then, we did not expect that in the fall we would still be separated, but here we are . . .

This is an encouragement to all of us to make those phone calls to each other in our church family. Say hello, check in, find out if someone has a need that we might be able to help with or pray for. **If you have misplaced your roster, we are happy to email or mail you a paper copy. Just let us know in the church office.**



The Monday evening Bible study will resume meeting on Monday, October 26. The rest of the schedule for that study is:

10/26 - Chapter 5 11/9 - Chapter 6
11/23 - Chapter 7 (final)

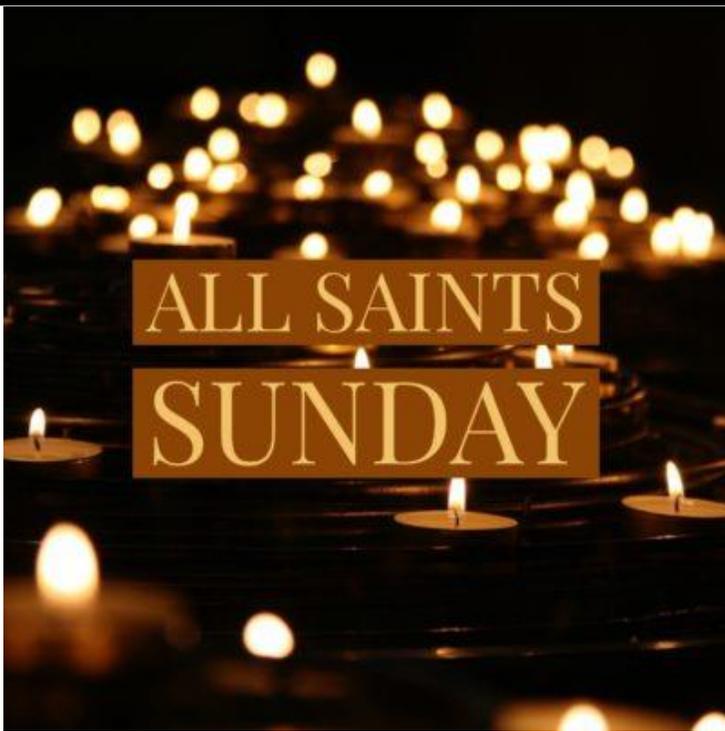


The Thursday Bible Study will begin meeting on Zoom, and will be studying the book 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus: Life Lessons. They are scheduled for October 29 and November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89426491954?>



Pastor Erin and the CLC Worship Team would like to hear from you with feedback relating to worship; whether it's about our regular Zoom services or worship outdoors on the hill. What are your thoughts? Is there something you would like

to see implemented? Music you would like to hear? Please take a moment and send us an email (with Worship Feedback in the subject line) so that we can share your input. The Worship Team meets on the first Monday evening of each month. Send emails to office@yourchrist.org or you may reach out to Pastor Erin directly at Pastor@yourchrist.org.



Remembering our Loved ones on All Saints Sunday

Next Sunday, November 1st we will be celebrating All Saints' Sunday; the day in the church year where we remember those loved ones who have passed. As always, we will be remembering those who have passed in our congregation since last All Saints Day in the worship service.

We are planning our Communion Slide Show that day to honor our departed loved ones and we are asking for you to share your photographs. If you would like to submit photographs, please email them to the church office at www.yourchrist.org by Tuesday, October 27th.



Handbell Ringers Wanted

CLC's handbell choir would like to begin rehearsals in a safe, socially-distanced manner at the church, but are in need of new ringers in order to accommodate the musical selections.

If you are interested in learning more about playing handbells, our handbell director, Jo Chiko, would love to talk to you! Email Jo at kjochiko-01@yahoo.com



Youth & Family Ministry is sponsoring a Holiday Tree at the Brookfield Zoo this year, **and CLC members are invited to participate.** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 15th** for the Brookfield Zoo Community Tree Trim. This year much planning necessary due to COVID. Please email KristinaDickens15@gmail.com as soon as possible if you would like to join us! **Deadline to register is Sunday, November 1, 2020.** If you have your own zoo membership, you do not need to reserve tickets with me, but you will need to obtain your time slot through your membership online. **Please email me** and let me know you are joining us via your family membership so I may include you in the ornament making emails for this Holiday Tree Trim. **Christ Lutheran Church's day to decorate is Sunday, November 15th, 2020. We may only decorate on this day.** More details on the event will be emailed to those who are attending this holiday event. We have 6 tickets available! If you would like to carpool with another family with COVID safety, please email Ms. Kristina.

IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Beginning on November 1st we will be **changing the worship style for our noon worshippers.** The 12:00 service that has been the same as the 9AM Zoom service will transition to an interactive Zoom service.

All the elements will be there, it will just be more organic, as it will be live on Zoom. Watch for the link to the noon worship service in next weekend's Christ Connection.



We are continuing to collect gently used (and clean) or new baby items during the month of October to help two area mamas-to-be who have babies due THIS November. (One baby boy and one baby girl!) These two young ladies have no resources to purchase the items they need. Donations are being collected in the foyer of the north doors. Please call 630.325.2220 or email KristinaDickens15@gmail.com to arrange for larger items. Parents, take a moment to reflect on the day your children were born. Do you remember being overwhelmed with excitement and joy? And maybe you were also overwhelmed because you weren't quite sure how to provide some of the necessities that were very much NEEDED for the little one to come home and be cared for in a safe environment? Can you imagine how these two mamas-to-be might be feeling with their due dates just around the corner? Please consider donating some baby items to these young ladies. Amazon is just a click away! Or the next time you go grocery shopping, grab some pacifiers, bottles, or burp cloths! ***We have received plenty of diapers and wipes.**

For the Nursery

- Quilted mattress pad
- Waterproof pad
- Blankets (fleece/heavy)
- Changing pad or table
- Diaper pail
- Diaper rash ointment
- Baby powder
- Chest of drawers (for storing baby's clothes)
- Night-light
- Baby monitor

Bathing and Grooming

- Baby tub (one)
- Baby oil and/or lotion
- Soft towels
- Soft washcloths
- Hooded terry robes
- Baby brush and comb
- Cloth diapers/burp cloths

Feeding

- High chair
- Bottles/nipples
- Wire brush bottle washer
- Accessories basket for dishwasher
- Drying rack for bottles
- Formula
- Baby spoons and forks (for feeding older babies)
- Plastic or washable bibs

Medicine Chest

- Thermometer (ear and/or rectal)
- Nasal aspirator/saline nose drops
- Medicine dropper/measuring spoon
- Baby acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Baby ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin)
- Baby decongestant

Medicine Chest (continued)

- Rehydration fluid (such as Pedialyte)
- Sunscreen
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Antiseptic cream
- Sterile bandages and gauze pads
- Gas drops
- Cool mist humidifier

Travel Gear

- Diaper bag
- Travel changing pad
- Portable playpen/crib

Safety

- Safety gates
- Safety latches (for drawers, cabinets, closets, etc.)
- Outlet plugs
- Window guards
- Cord shorteners (for blind or drapery cords)
- Corner guards (for sharp edges of furniture)

Clothing

- 3 full length sleepers
- 3 bodysuits
- 4 to 6 rompers
- 3 pullovers
- 4 to 6 footed coveralls
- 3 to 5 side-snap undershirts
- 2 to 4 pairs of booties/socks
- Winter coat