

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 September 13, 2020— Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor's Message



In his video reflection on 9/11 ([available here](#)), former Metro-NY Bishop Steven Bouman shares this story: While fishing with his grandfather as a 10 year old, his grandfather turned to him and said,

“Steven, the only death you have to be afraid of is the one already behind you in your baptism.” This confounding sentiment recognizes that baptism claims a death to all things which defy God, allowing us to be raised to new life in Christ. Because of God's promises in baptism, we need not fear physical or spiritual death.

At the beginning of the baptismal rite, the pastor reads words similar to these: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

In a time where death may seem all around us, these words promise comfort and hope. We have been delivered from sin and death and all that would pull us away from God. We have been raised into a new life with living hope. We have been grafted into God's family *and* into God's mission for the life of the world. We are not alone - for we are a part of the whole body of Christ. We do not live to ourselves, but to God - with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies will die, but our connection with God and the Body of Christ will remain. Sustained by these promises, we who follow Christ become the hope-bearers in the world. We bring a message of good news when everything sounds like bad news. We carry the promise of hope into the depths of despair. We cry out for peace when the world cries out for war. We claim radical welcome instead of exclusion. We practice love even when those around us act with fear and hatred. For all of this, God provides sustenance and courage through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

These days, most of us remain all too aware of the death-dealing challenges in the world. The pandemic continues its global spread, wildfires rage in the western United States, the largest refugee camp in Europe was destroyed this week by fire, and Chicago firearm deaths have risen 50% this year. We live with a constant barrage of difficult and anxiety-producing news. Many of us seek messages of hope and clarity for the future. But unless these messages are grounded in the painful realities we live and see around us each day, they will ring false, proving more detrimental than helpful.

As Christians, our hope is grounded in promises that are *already* coming true. We follow a God who abdicates power so that all people would be free. We rely on a God whose forgiveness knows no bounds. We are accompanied by a God who loves so thoroughly that our worst cruelty cannot stop it. Our very lives are intertwined with a God who has already overcome death, proving that reconciliation and redemption win over and over again.

(Continued on Page 3)

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. outdoors
Noon on Zoom
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

2nd and 4th Mondays
6:00PM

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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Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills

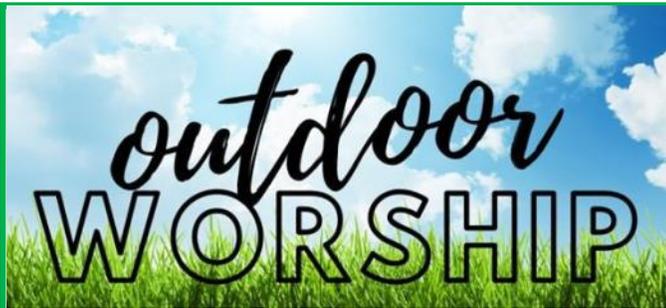


@ChristClarendon



clc.clarendon.hills

Follow us on Social Media!



Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to the Worship Team about the recent outdoor service that was held on the front lawn. **Based on the positive feedback, we are delighted to announce that we will be holding our next outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m.**

Please use the link below for tickets

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/christ-lutheran-church-of-clarendon-hills-30894044023>

TICKETS: Printed tickets should be displayed on the driver side windshield. Online tickets must be displayed on the driver side at check-in.

ARRIVAL: Please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes early. The only entrance is on Frontage Road.

PARKING INSTRUCTIONS: All vehicles must enter through the Frontage Road off Holmes Avenue and exit through the back of the parking lot. You will be directed to a parking spot when you arrive.

You may sit outside your car on the driver side only.

MASKS: All parking lot attendants and worship participants will wear masks for your protection. Wearing masks outdoors is highly recommended.

"BYOE" COMMUNION : Bring Your Own Elements for Communion. Juice is recommended to substitute for wine, as no alcohol of any kind is permitted for this event.

RESTROOMS: Only available for emergency use.

RAIN DATE: You will receive a robocall in the evening on SATURDAY, September 12, 2020, in the event of a rain cancellation. Your ticket will be valid automatically for the Rain Date of September 20, 2020. If you cannot attend on the Rain Date, please cancel your ticket so another family may enjoy the service.

A graphic featuring silhouettes of children and adults with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture against a blue sky background. Below the silhouettes, the words "CHILDREN * YOUTH * FAMILY" are written in colorful, stylized letters.

Welcome back Youth & Family Ministry! Registration is now open for the 2020-2021 Youth Ministry Year! Please go to www.yourchrist.org, check your email for the link, or check out our Facebook page to register your children now for Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and/or Youth Group!

All families must register each child ages 0 - 18 whether or not the child will be attending the Nursery, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, or Youth Group. This is to ensure correct ordering of materials, staffing of volunteers, and for emergency plans.

All children are welcome to register for Youth & Family Ministry.

Stay tuned for details on this coming Youth Ministry Year!

Weekly Social Media Posts for September

Icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Motivational Monday
Thoughtful Tuesday
Wednesday Wisdom
Traditional Music Thursday
Praise Band Friday
Sermon Sneak Peak Saturday
Sunday Shine

A graphic with the word "Connections" and an image of hands forming a heart shape.

Tuesday & Thursday

(Pastor's Message continued from page one)

It may be easy to fall into despair when we don't have clear answers. It may be easy to become apathetic when we can't see the future. It may be easy to throw up our hands or bury our heads in the sand, hoping it will all go away if we just stop paying attention. These responses are all too human, and no one could fault us for them. However, as followers of Christ, we have another option. We have the option of reaching toward an already-promised future. A future with a living hope. When we fear death - our own or that around us - we have the option to give that fear to God. We have the option to remember our baptism and the promise of abundant life. This life follows Jesus - who experienced hunger, pain, challenge, change, fear, violence, and even death. Joined in God's mission for the life of the world, we may follow Jesus into challenging places. We may be called into painful and difficult conversations. We may enter into hardship or oppression on behalf of others. We may care for the sick or imprisoned and become sick or imprisoned ourselves. But we will also follow Jesus into a new life, full of redemption and hope. We will be a part of the love God has for the world. We will carry this message - and this hope. Grounded in reality, but also grounded in baptism. Baptism, defied the only death the we ever had to fear. So we live now - in the midst of everything - carrying the love of God into the world, and offering a vision of a new life with a living hope. Grounded in the promises of God.

Pastor Erin

Racism 101

We have been invited by our neighbors at Community Presbyterian in Clarendon Hills to participate in a study from September 27th through October 18th on the subject of racism. The study will take place on Four consecutive Sunday mornings at 10:45 on Zoom and will be facilitated by different individuals from week to week:

September 27th: Why Is It So Difficult to Talk About Racism?

October 4th: A History of Racism in the United States: 1492 - 1954

October 11th: A History of Racism 1954 - present

October 18th: White Privilege

Interested in participating? Watch for more details including the Zoom invitation information as September 27th approaches. There will also be a link available to find printed materials to help guide you through this study.



LWR Quilt Dedication

This Sunday we will be gracing our front lawn with the 34 quilts lovingly created for Lutheran World Relief. When the explosion happened in Beirut we learned that some crates containing last year's quilts were

harmed. Some, but not all will still be able to live out their purpose, but now we will add 34 new quilts to bring comfort and support where it is needed. *Thank you to the Quilting Ministry for their work on these masterpieces even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic!*



Do you have a favorite pumpkin recipe? Share it with us! Through September we'll be collecting pumpkin recipes to share on Facebook in October. Email your recipes to christlutheranmarketing@gmail.com. Send pictures too!

COVID-19 Virtual Care Program



We're partnering with the State of Illinois to offer a virtual care program for Illinois residents recovering from COVID-19 at home so they can do so safely. The program is available to all residents who are confirmed, are likely COVID-19 positive, or anyone who thinks they have been exposed.

This program is available at no cost to you, no matter where you receive your primary care.

The program offers:

- Daily virtual check-ins via our LiveWell app or MyAdvocateAurora website for a period of 14 days
- Educational information
- 24/7 alert monitoring and support
- A free home monitoring kit, including a thermometer, face masks and other materials

If you're an Illinois resident, call [866-443-2584](tel:866-443-2584) to enroll.

Every One Thankful

Saturday October 10th

Online Trivia Contest to bring food to families in need

For more information, visit [Everyonethankful](#) virtual fundraiser on Facebook.





Calling All Facebook Users

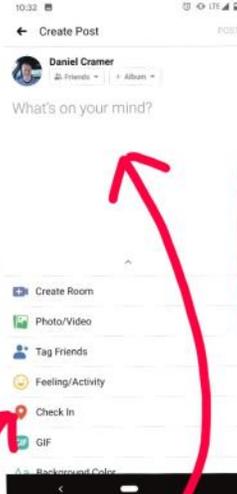
Did you know you can still check-in on Facebook on Sundays for our Virtual Church Service?
Let family and friends know that you are worshipping and invite them to worship with us remotely!



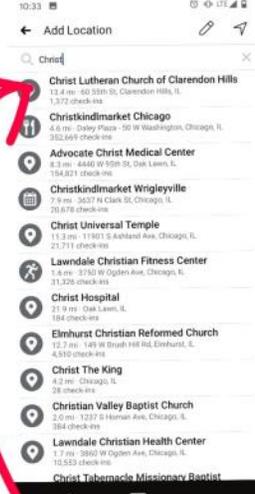
Open your Facebook App



Tap on "What's on your mind?"



Type in your Post and then tap on Check-In



Search for Christ Lutheran Church and Post!