



Lent

Worship on the Sundays in the Lenten season continues with the Lenten themes as Jesus proceeds from Galilee to Jerusalem for his last week. We see these themes on Sundays, March 4, 11, and 18.

Lent Wednesday Suppers and Worship

Wednesday evening gatherings continue with supper at 6:00 p. m. and worship with a brief but meaningful play at 7:00 p. m. On March 14 the main course will include corned beef and cabbage as we anticipate St. Patrick's Day. Please note that there are several slots left on the sign-up sheet for main dishes, salads, sides, and desserts for the Wednesday suppers.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins on March 25 with Palm Sunday. Weather permitting, those who desire to will gather in the Columbarium on the front lawn and proceed into the worship nave with palm branches at the beginning of the services.



Maundy Thursday will be observed with Holy Communion on March 29 as we remember and appreciate the Holy Meal Jesus gave us.

Good Friday will be observed in cooperation with Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Emmanuel has an afternoon service at 1:00 p. m. They worship jointly with us at 7:00 p. m. at Christ Lutheran. The Christ Cantata Choir will sing "The Passion According to St. John" by Erik Meyer at the service, and candles will be extinguished in a gradual order to convey his being abandoned by his followers and the foreshadowing of his end.

Easter

Easter will be celebrated on April 1. Celebration services will be at 8:00 and 10:30 a. m. A breakfast to which all are invited will be served at 9:00 a. m. and an Easter egg hunt for the children will be held at approximately 9:30 a. m. Children will be admitted to the hunt by age group.

Renovation Update

The Powers Bowersox architects recently approached the Renovation Team with another church renovation plan which would include an elevator on the south side near the current east door. It would allow passage to the choir loft, worship level, and lower level by elevator. Some elements of the plan approved at the annual meeting would be changed or eliminated. The Renovation Team has sent it back to the architects for some changes and for a more accurate cost estimate. Once the plan is returned from the architects, an informational meeting will be called for the congregation's review.

Christ Lutheran 2018 Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee has initiated its appeal for 2018. It was announced in worship on February 25, and a mailing of a letter of explanation and appeal is being sent out along with a pledge form. Last year we celebrated our church's 120th and the Reformation's 500 year anniversary. This year we will continue to build on those strong foundations as we continue to share and show the Good News of God's love in our community and prepare to make necessary changes to our church building. Thank you for the generous giving of your time, talent and treasure in 2017. We are blessed as a congregation and have received so many gifts. Last year, we shared from the abundance that God entrusted to us with 38 different charitable institutions! Lives have been touched through

Reflection

Reflection

Imagine walking into a party where you recognize no one. Small groups of people are eagerly talking and laughing but no one seems to notice you. You get refreshments and eat by yourself. As you leave, the host, who doesn't know your name, shakes your hand and says he hopes you'll come to his next party. What are the chances that you will?

Years ago I had a similar experience when visiting a church by myself. I tried to look friendly in hopes that someone would engage me in conversation but the only one who did was the pastor who simply shook my hand. As I remember, I started out toward the fellowship hall for their social hour but ended up going home instead.

I wonder if that's ever happened at Christ Lutheran. We don't mean to ignore people, of course, we may just not notice the visitor sitting alone near the back. Yet a friendly smile, handshake and even a conversation may be particularly appreciated by those who are visiting. According to a recent Pew Research Center study about half of the adults in the US have looked for a new religious congregation at some point and the single most common reason is that they have moved. Another common situation that brings people to a new church is divorce.

In both cases, people are starting over again, trying build new relationships and, in the case of people new to the community, they are also dealing with the stresses of moving to a new community, into a new house and may also have children dealing with new schools. A smile and warm handshake and an invitation to conversation by someone who shares their faith may give them well-needed encouragement.

How can you know who is visiting? We may be afraid of insulting a member who comes infrequently. A solution might be to simply say, "I'm not sure if we've spoken before and I apologize if we have, but I'm not sure I know your name." With words like that no harm is done if you're greeting a long-time member or a guest.

Christian community is a gift in our transient, often unkind world. We are the body of Christ in the world. May we share that community on Sunday morning, especially with our guests.

aged all congregations to support and engage in the ongoing work of welcoming refugees. They also asked that a task force be appointed to explore becoming a Sanctuary Synod of the ELCA and to report back to the 2018 Synod assembly in June.

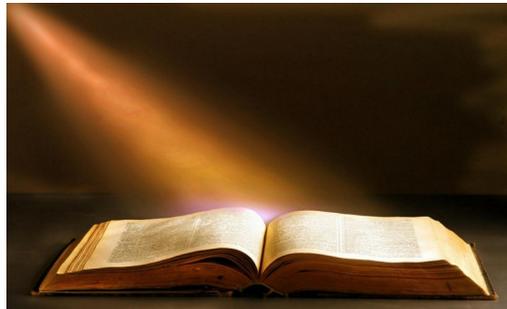
This task force has been meeting and is inviting people into the process through a series of Listening Sessions. A listening session will be held in our area on Saturday, March 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Mark's Lutheran in Clayton, 6337 Clayton Rd.

This meeting provides the opportunity for you to:

- 1) hear from people who want to share their experiences of interacting with those who come from places other than the U.S. and have been here for extended periods, and
- 2) provide other constructive input to the Task Force for possible inclusion into the response to Synod.

This session is meant to collect information and not to debate the merits of any aspect of the Resolution. It will have a direct impact on the way the task force responds to our Synod's resolution. Everyone with experiences, and anyone with concerns, opinions, and passion about the possibility of becoming a sanctuary synod is encouraged to attend.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES



Tuesday Morning, 10 a.m.—Fellowship Hall. The Tuesday morning Bible study group has studied the books of Esther and Susannah, is currently studying the book of Tobit, and will be studying other books from the Apocrypha, that group of books which was included in some of the old translations of the Old Testament. They have been learning Luther's view of these engaging stories of faith. Questions? Contact Carolyn Crowe at 314-277-2164.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study. This study meets from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the 3rd floor lounge of the Laclede Groves senior living community at 701 S. Laclede Station Road. The pastors lead a study on upcoming Sunday lessons.

bered with a service on Monday morning, February 5th.

We commend her to the hands of our risen Lord who receives her with love and new life.



ROOM AT THE INN

Christ Lutheran is scheduled to host Room at the Inn on the weekend of March 23-24. Volunteers drive to Bridgeton to pick up the clients. They serve an evening meal and morning breakfast. They host overnight and return the clients to Bridgeton after breakfast. The location is First Congregational Church in Webster Groves. Each of these activities is a separate volunteer activity. If you are able to help out hosting these people from the St. Louis area who are homeless, please let Sandy Hoyer know at 314-422-7715 or at hoyer.sandra60@gmail.com.

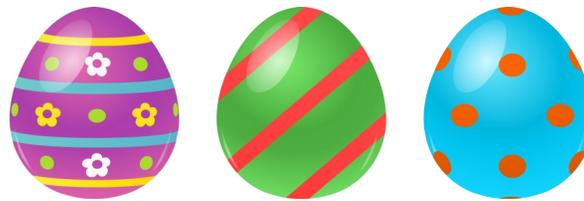


Calling all cooks, bakers and Lenten Meal attendees! There are three more Lenten meals and services on Wednesdays this month! We would love to have you join us for the meal, fellowship and the service at 7:00 p.m. following dinner. There is a sign up in the fellowship hall for the meals. We need volunteers to bring main dishes, sides/salads and desserts. Thank you, in advance, for your generous donation of food, time and talent!



Eat, Drink and Be IRISH!

Lots of Luck will come your way if you join us for a party celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Join us for a craft beer tasting party. This is fun way to experience the variety of beers on the market from light and crisp to dark and chocolatey. There will be light appetizers served. Don't like beer? don't worry we'll have a table with other options. The party is Friday, March 9, 2018 from 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. at the Arden Mead Youth & Community Center. If interested in attending, please go to the following link to RSVP and sign up to bring a chilled 6 pack of one of the types of beer:



Decorating eggs at Easter, and giving them to others, is a centuries old custom. People have decorated eggs by methods ranging from the simple coloring of the egg with paint or dye to very intricate patterns drawn or carved into the egg. Different materials can be attached to the shell, or holes cut into the egg and items placed inside. This year, as in the past, you can join Nancy and Keith Lissant in the fellowship hall to learn some interesting ways to decorate eggs. There will be methods demonstrated for all skill levels. Participants will have several methods to try. If you have ideas of your own, bring them with you. We will also have some of the egg blowers available for sale. All of the materials you need will be provided for you to make **one** decorated Easter Egg. If you want to bring along some eggs to blow, you may, but there will be some provided.

We will hold this workshop on Saturday, March 24, 2018. We plan to start about 2:00 pm and run until about 5:00 pm. If you need to come late or leave early, that is not a problem. Plan to join us and have some fun decorating eggs in different ways. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall so that we have an idea of how many supplies to bring. Please sign up on the sheet or contact **Nancy or Keith Lissant in person or by phone at 314-962-1907.**

This section of the newsletter will feature items that have been lost and/or found at Christ Lutheran. Are you missing something? Check with the office staff.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: Brown animal print women's sunglasses

FOUND: Ex Vogo Vintage gold women's earring.

FOUND: Floral Handkerchief

FOUND: Silver, Starkey brand hearing aid

FOUND: Multicolored paisley pattern reading glasses

PALOOZA

To the community in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1). As Christians, we are invited to present ourselves to God each day, attending to the practice of discipleship in ways which are pleasing to God.

The Center for Action and Contemplation’s James Finley reminds us that “our deepest freedom rests not in our freedom to do what we want to do but rather in our freedom to become who God wills us to be.” Faith formation – discipleship – is about becoming who God wills us to be. This is done in a daily dying to self, “in a compassionate reaching out to others, and ... in making Jesus’ prayer our own: ‘Father ... not my will be done but yours.’”

At the Central States Synod’s 2018 Area Ministry Palooza we will journey together toward a stronger sense of our call to practice discipleship and how our congregations can teach and encourage Christian disciples.

- We will explore Finley’s three-fold process of emptying ourselves, serving others, and seeking God’s will.**
- Together, we will create a discipleship plan for ourselves and our congregations.**
- Oh, and we will have some fun. It is, after all, a Palooza...***

Sunday March 11, 2018 Area Ministry Palooza for Eastern Missouri 3:00 – 6:00 p.m

Let’s all grow in HOPE! Save the date for the event. Register by going to the synod website at www.css-elca.org or call the church office.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend.

It will be at St Thomas/ Holy Spirit Lutheran Church 3980 S Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63127

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION ON MARCH 18 TO
ACCOMMODATE SPRING BREAKS.**

March 4—**The Gospel According to Mark read by David Suchet.** Suchet is a British actor well known to American audiences for his portrayal of Hercule Poirot on PBS *Mystery*. We'll watch and discuss a portion of his dramatic reading of the Gospel of Mark that was performed at London's Saint Paul's Cathedral in March of 2017.

March 11—**The Racial Climate in our Community.** The Rev. Regina Gray, a graduate of Eden Seminary and representative of Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), who lives in Webster Groves and has a daughter attending WGHS will speak frankly about the challenges African Americans face of living in communities like Webster Groves.

March 18—**The State of Modern Day Israel.** Yael Shomroni, a resident of Webster Groves who moved here with her family after growing up in Israel, will share her impressions of modern day Israel, especially as regards to the situation of the Palestinians. She has recently lobbied Missouri Legislators to vote against a federal bill which would penalize boycotts against Israel.

March 25—**Division in America: session 2.** Responding to requests, members Mark Ruff and Jesse Helton, both professors at Saint Louis University will continue the discussion began February 4. Dr. Ruff, a historian, and Dr. Helton, a sociologist, offer different but complementary perspectives on political schism in United States.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING



At its February meeting, the Christ Lutheran Church Council:

- Received new council members Melissa Allen, Sylvia Rogers, Lynnae Ruff, Sharon Hornbeck, Joan O'Brien, and Suzie McIntyre.
- Received Treasurer's Report showing income to date of \$25,923 and expenses of \$25,627 against a budgeted expense amount of \$34,533 for the period.
- Heard reports from various committees seeking new members and planning to reorganize for the year.
- Inreach will be assisting with the upcoming New Member Sunday.
- Fellowship is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Beer Tasting night in March and discussed how to notify members by email.
- Outreach is planning a trivia night for the community in the spring.
- Stewardship is setting forth a Stewardship emphasis for March and April.
- Heard report of amended renovation plan and will receive a more detailed report in March.
- Heard update on church office administrator position and the intent to interview more candidates.
- Pastors reported on a Lifetime Service Award being presented by the Association of Lutheran Development Executives to Larry Neeb in Minneapolis. They will attend. They mentioned that the custodian is now working Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Reported that Dave Ringler is stepping

LET'S CELEBRATE!

CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Your Christ Lutheran family wants to celebrate you! ***Every month we will honor anniversaries and birthdays with a special cake, party fun and decorations*** after the service.



ANNIVERSARIES

03/04 Christine & Dave Austin
03/29 Regina & Bill Wischmeyer



BIRTHDAYS

03/01	Nadia Roberts	03/20	Regina Wischmeyer
03/04	Aja Hornbeck	03/22	Natalie Bruns
03/10	Dave Ringkor	03/22	Carol Mansour
03/11	Weston Bussler	03/23	Jack Wood
03/11	Mike Hoyer	03/25	Elmer Bibb
03/13	Ellie Zempel	03/28	Claire Holmes
03/14	Faith Moore	03/29	Sophia Bude
03/16	Caroline Fortney	03/29	Ronni Knubley
03/17	Xavier Ruff	03/30	Matt Bender

March birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated on Sunday, March 11th.

If you haven't already designated the recipient for your 2017 Choice Dollars, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars" **before March 31.**

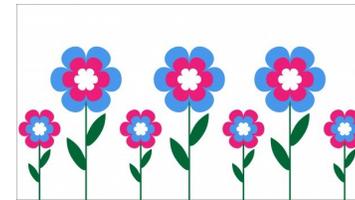
BLOOD PRESSURE AND BLOOD SUGAR SCREENINGS

Carolyn Crowe, Faith Community Nurse and Director of Senior Adult Ministries, will do blood pressure and blood sugar screenings on Sunday, March 4th. You can find her in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. You can also make an appointment with Carolyn for a blood pressure or blood sugar check up, by calling her at either the church, 314-962-6011, or her cell phone 314-277-2164.

Don't forget to get your FLU SHOT this month—flu is a dangerous disease that can be made less so by a simple shot, which is available at your doctor's office, hospitals and many pharmacies, including ones located in grocery stores.

Altar Flowers

The sign-up sheet for altar flowers is now on the right side of the doors into the sanctuary. Anyone interested in donating the flowers for a particular Sunday or Sundays can sign up to do so on the chart. There are sheets to include when you send in a check.



Tech Tutors



Alice Pierce and Haley Goebel

Fridays, March 9 through April 20, 1-2:30

Webster Hills UMC, 1333 W. Lockwood Ave., 63122

Just got a new smartphone and you can't figure out how to use it? Or, you got a tablet as a gift and you don't know what it can do? You need a Tech Tutor! Shepherd's Center resident techies will be available Fridays, March 9 through April 20 from 1-2:30 to give you one-on-one assistance with your technology issues. Bring your phone or tablet with you. Just stop in, no registration necessary. No tutoring Friday, March 30

To be Held in April

Last year the church council authorized children under third grade to receive Holy Communion with age-appropriate instruction if their parents felt they were ready to do so. Parents of children in first grade and older who have not yet had the class have been sent an e-mail with a link to a Doodle Poll to determine the days the three-class instruction will be offered. If you did not receive an e-mail and wish to have your child in class please contact the church office. Thank you.



Humanitri Hires New Executive Director

Humanitri, a non-profit for homeless families which Christ Lutheran supports, has hired a new Executive Director, Kimberly Schave. Kimberly is an LCMS deaconess, a CPA and a doctoral candidate focusing on corporate support of faith based agencies. Her background includes helping to start a soup kitchen and crisis pregnancy center in urban Georgia.

She will be leaving her job at the LCMS International Center as Director of Project and Policy Administration to take the helm at Humanitri. Ms. Schave will begin March 1.

DATE: March 4 **8:00 a.m.** **10:30 a.m.**

Key Person	Bill Scholle	Keith Lissant
Assisting Minister		Mark Rook
Acolyte		Aishlyn McCarty
Ushers		Brett Bussler and Joan O'Brien
Lector	Larry Hill	Brett Bussler
Presenters	Larry Hill	Larry & Kristin Hill
Altar Guild		Nancy & Keith Lissant
Flowers		Lent—No Flowers
Nursery		Lynnae Tanner Ruff
Counters		Susan DeBusk / Dave Fey
Refreshments	Sharon Hornbeck, Carolyn Lange, Ellen Mead and Flo Saeger	

DATE: March 11 **8:00 a.m.** **10:30 a.m.**

Key Person	Vic Saeger	TBA
Assisting Minister		Carolyn Crowe
Acolyte		Hanna Lauer
Ushers		Mike Hoyer / Jadee Lauer
Lector	Flo Saeger	Donna Munger
Presenters	Jim & Sally Wachtman	Donna Munger and Gale Nunn
Altar Guild		Sally Wachtman
Flowers		Lent—No Flowers
Nursery		Lynnae Tanner Ruff
Counters		Sarah Bender and Sarah Keifer
Refreshments	Alena Horn / Jadee Lauer / Sarah Ringkor / Lynnae Tanner Ruff	

DATE: March 18

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Key Person

John Hoffmann

Peter Jordan

Assisting Minister

Sandy Hoyer

Acolyte

James Gilliland

Ushers

Joe Bartek and Peter Jordan

Lector

John Hoffmann

Harriet Scholle

Presenters

Linda Elkin and Mark Smith

Becca Jordan and Mark Smith

Altar Guild

Sally Watchman Sandy Hoyer

Flowers

Lent—No Flowers

Nursery

Lynnae Tanner Ruff

Counters

Joe Bartek and Tore Stole

Refreshments

Annika Bartek/ Angela Bratcher / Harriet Scholle / Sally Wachtman

DATE: March 25

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Key Person

Jerry Kuziel

Joan O'Brien

Assisting Minister

John Hoffman

Acolyte

Kahlie McCarty

Ushers

Mike & Colleen Wagner

Lectors

Andrew Schleicher

Jodi McCarty

Presenters

The Schleicher Family

Bob & Joan O'Brien

Altar Guild

Kathy Kuziel and Angela Bratcher

Flowers

Lent—No Flowers

Nursery

Lynnae Tanner Ruff

Counters

Dave Austin and Joan O'Brien

Refreshments

Melissa Allen / Katie Ciorba / Kate Dopuch / Jodi McCarty

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 a.m. Catherine Gunther Baptism	12:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship @ Laclede Groves 6:00p.m. Fitness Group	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Pastors Text Study	6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner 7:00 p.m. Lenten service 7:45 p.m Choir practice	Inreach Committee meeting	6:00 p.m. Beer tasting party	8:30 a.m. Choir practice
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3-6:00 p.m. PALOOZA	12:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship @ Laclede 6:00p.m. Fitness Group	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Pastors Text Study	6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service 7:45 p.m. Choir Practice	6:00p.m. Fitness Group		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NO Sunday School	12:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship @ Laclede 6:00p.m. Fitness Group	10:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Pastors Text Study	6:00 p.m Lenten Dinner 7:00 p.m. Lenten service 7:45 p.m. Choir Practice	6:00p.m. Fitness Group		8:30 a.m. Choir Practice 2-5:00 p.m. Eggstravaganza
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
PALM	12:00 p.m. Senior Fellowship @ Laclede Groves	10:00 a.m. Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Bible Study	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	Noon- Good Friday @ Emmanuel	

NOTES:

Christ Lutheran Church, ELCA
1 Selma Avenue at Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3199

ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT #741

Telephone

314-962-6011

Fax

314-962 -4810

E-mail

christwg@sbcglobal.net

Website

www.christwg.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday at

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

CHILDCARE

7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday 9 a.m. - noon

Tuesday-Friday

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Pastors

Penny and Keith Holste

Council President

Brett Bussler

Pastoral Assistant

Mark Roock

**Southside Cluster shared youth
coordinator**

Aaron Elliott

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR
ADULT MINISTRIES AND
faith community nurse**

Carolyn Crowe

Director of Choirs

Diane Drollinger

Organist

Mark Ruff

Office Administrator

Ginelle Bess

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MARCH 2017 Highlights

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03/14 : the main course will include corned beef and cabbage as we anticipate St. Patrick's Day. Please note that there are several slots left on the sign-up sheet for main dishes, salads, sides, and desserts for the Wednesday suppers.

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03/29 : Maundy Thursday will be observed with Holy Communion as we remember and appreciate the Holy Meal Jesus gave us.