



ONE IN CHRIST

Week of March 7 - 13, 2023



A NOTE FROM KATIE GREGSTON

We are entering a very stressful time for many high schoolers: college acceptance season. Although Covid has altered the timeline a bit, spring still often brings the excitement and heartbreak that comes with the YES or NO from a university. Within seconds, dreams can drastically change.

The worst part is, it's arbitrary. It certainly seems that there are more factors at play in college admissions than what is asked for on an application. I'm not saying that in a "universities-don't-know-what-they-are-doing" way, but in the reality that superb students are being turned away from schools. It is not because their grades are poor, or their ACT scores are low, or they don't list enough extracurriculars.

In our culture of smarter, brighter, and better, we are achieving at such high rates that the cream at the top is thick. When I hear about some of the students who have been rejected or waitlisted, I can't help but think 'who in the world did they pick over this kid?'

With the competition steep, students are overscheduled and overworked, and parents often wonder if it is worth the fight to get their kids to church. Their child is working their tail off at school and in sports and with every other extra to help them rise up in this pool of super-achievers. Does it really matter if they come to worship once a week (because, let's be honest, that's definitely not getting you into college)?

Shouldn't you let them sleep in if they want to? You took them to church when they were little. They say they don't get much out of it. It's always a fight. You just don't have the energy for it.

I have heard it all, and it's all true. Teenagers are difficult, and tired, and it appears like they are getting nothing out of church sometimes.

Then there is a moment:

An arbitrary decision by a university.

A cut made by a coach.

A social media blow-up that excommunicates them from a group.

A breakup with their first love.

There is a devastating rejection. There is a glaring **NO**. And then there is Jesus. Whose only answer is always, without a doubt, to each of us, **YES**.

And that gift of YES is why we push for church. Why the fight matters.

The yes comes from worship, from the surrounding community, from the eucharist, from the liturgy. From the knowledge that no matter what; we all carry the image of Jesus in us. The YES of Jesus is the fire that allows us to move through all the no's of life. For some students it's the big public world of college acceptances. For others it's the private battles of making their own way on a path that looks different than their peers.

The gift of YES is also why we need to get our own butts in the pews. The painful no's of life don't end in high school. There will be failed relationships and loneliness. There will be miscarriages and diagnosis. There will be layoffs and brutal blunders.

The need for Jesus' YES is universal and timeless. It's as important at 16 as it is at 60, and Jesus' YES is so much louder and sweeter than any NO we will ever hear.

Adapted from The Sweetest Yes
By Emily Rutledge on March 14, 2019



WE WORSHIP....



Sunday, March 12, 10:00am Worship

Access Online Bulletin

Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided in the nursery each week.

OR

You may also attend virtually using the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

Masks are optional to enter the building, and will be available at entrances if needed. If you feel unwell, please care for yourself and others by staying home, and we will be happy to see you when you return. Thank you for your commitment to caring for one another!

Join Worship Virtually (via Zoom) → <http://tiny.cc/clcworship>

One tap mobile

+13126266799,278217453#,1#,971744# US (Chicago)

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 278 217 453 | Password: 971744

Worship Signup

At Christ Lutheran, our children and youth are part of our church, and we encourage people of all ages to take on leadership roles during our worship service. If you would like the opportunity to serve in worship, visit: <http://tiny.cc/worshipsignup>

For more info visit the Children's Google Drive: <http://tiny.cc/children-drive>

TO SERVE AS ACOLYTE:

Please visit <https://bit.ly/CLCacolytes> Contact Kersten Horn (horn.kersten@gmail.com) if your child needs acolyte training.

TO SIGN UP AS A LECTOR OR ASSISTING MINISTER:

Please contact Mark Roock.

Please reach out to Kate Hoerchler with questions and suggestions you have about the children and youth ministries at Christ Lutheran.



Lenten Observance at Christ Lutheran Church

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service, In-Person and on Zoom

6:00pm Dinner and 7:00pm evening prayer will be held each week shown below:

March 8, 15, 22, 29 | **Katie Ciorba will be sharing a reflection on March 8.**

[Join Wednesday Evening Prayer Online](http://tiny.cc/CLCwedprayer) — <http://tiny.cc/CLCwedprayer>

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID:** 873 2098 3074 **Passcode:** 63119

Interested in providing a Lenten Wednesday evening dinner? Please contact Dave Fey at davefey@me.com

Lenten Dinners 2023



Our annual Wednesday night Lenten Dinners begin on February 22 and go through April 5 – hope you're able to join us in fellowship.

Wednesdays 6:00pm

If you're interested in volunteering to bring a dinner or to help with setup and cleanup please contact Dave Fey – davefey@me.com



AND LEARN....

Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet each Tuesday morning at 10:30am, in the fellowship hall. All are welcomed to join us!



Women's Group — Lenten Devotional Study

Please join the "Dwelling in the Word" women's group as we read, reflect, share and pray our way through Lent using Kate Bowler's "Bless This Lent We Actually Have." **We will meet at 11am each Sunday during Lent** - feel free to drop in for any or all of the weeks. No reading or prep work needed prior to each week's meeting!



Kate Bowler writes, "Lent is a time when we get a minute to tell the truth: Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone. Of course, the cross isn't the end of the story, but this season of grief is carved out to acknowledge the reality of Christ's sacrifice. And the reality of suffering that so many of our circumstances reflect too - our own pain and grief and despair. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us. Jesus will walk with us through whatever kind of Lenten day we are having. The lovely one. The garbage one. The one that barely seems like it counted at all. As we toggle through every kind of emotion - boredom, devastation, happiness, irritation - we want to say: Bless this Lent."

Child Safety and Wellbeing Fair

April 1, 2023 | 9:30—11:30am | Webster Groves Recreation Center

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are among the most powerful, protective, and healing forces in a child's life! Join the Safe Kids, Healthy Communities Workgroup, creators of the Community Safety Pledge, in kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month by celebrating healthy childhoods! This will be a morning of food, entertainment, and yoga/mindfulness activities with The Oxygen Project. Many other special surprises are in store!

This is a family friendly event.

[Click here to access the event flyer](#) | [Click here to REGISTER for the Fair](#)





Adult Forum meets on Sundays at 9am, in the Conference Room or on Zoom. We hope you can join us!

Upcoming Sessions

March 12 — Jon Heerboth will talk about the Biblical portrayal of Mary Magdalene

March 19 — Alena Horn—Language Change in the Church
[See Alena's summary below]

This talk will explore the use of generic masculine forms like he, him, men, etc. in the Bible, introduce some relevant linguistic theory, and consider some of the pros and cons of language change in the church. Rather than advocating for or against change, I will examine the merits of each side and discuss them from a linguistic perspective.

Recap of 3/5/23 — The adults joined the Sunday School and Sunday Cool kids for Science and the Bible. Water, the stuff we drink, clean with and give to plants, is also used in the sacrament of Baptism. But water is a chemical too and a pretty amazing one. Jesse Helton demonstrated how electricity can separate water into the oxygen and hydrogen, the elements that make it up. He then made a lava lamp by adding an antacid tablet to a jar containing oil and colored water which normally don't mix with each other. But the antacid table produced bubbles that caused drops of water to rise into the oil above it. Harriet Scholle, a former Chemistry teacher, offered scientific explanations.

After that each table did an experiment. Some dropped water onto a penny to see how many drops would stay on top of the penny before the water went onto the table. Other tables counted the number of cotton balls they could stuff into a glass on water. All the groups found that the number of drops on the penny and the number of cotton balls in the water was greater than they predicted. Everyone read a Bible verse that showed the wonder of God's work.

An Invitation from Webster Groves Clergy: Addressing Racial Covenants

March 12 | 2:00pm | Unity United Methodist Church

For over a year, I and the pastors of several congregations in and around the City of Webster Groves have been meeting with our Metropolitan Congregations United Representative to find ways to strengthen our community. One of the things The Webster Groves Clergy Alliance is working on is addressing the existence of racial covenants written into the property deeds of many of the homes in Webster Groves. In spite of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, many homes across the country, and in Webster Groves, still have these covenants in them. It is long past time to address this.

You are invited to an event where we will present information about racial covenants, and Mayor Arnold will be present to assist Webster Groves residents in removing these covenants from your deeds. This event is planned and led by clergy, but is open to everyone who is interested in learning about these covenants, and taking the easy steps to remove them. We hope you will join us, and invite you neighbors, as we take this small step toward equity in our community!



SO WE CAN WELCOME....

The Borden Twins Are Here!

Welcome to Blair and Leo Borden, born February 23! Congratulations to Hannah, Curtis, and Hank and keep them in your prayers as they begin life with their new family members!

The Borden twins' baptism will be on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.



Refreshment Volunteers Needed!



We're looking for volunteers to bring refreshments to be served following Sunday church services.

SIGN UP SOON!

We're looking for refreshment volunteers to help provide food and snacks after church services. You may use the [online sign up form](#) to choose the date(s) you'd like to volunteer. We have dates available now through June! To sign up, just visit:

<http://tiny.cc/refreshments>



AND SERVE !

Sound & Technology Upgrades!

This week, we are having a new mixer and camera installed in our sanctuary! This upgrade will improve the connection between our sound system and Zoom, and increase flexibility and usability for our tech team. Training is happening on Saturday morning, and on Sunday after Worship, and our contractor will be with our tech person in Worship on Sunday to ensure that all goes smoothly in the transition.

Have you been thinking about joining the tech team? Now is the time! *Let Susan DeBusk or Pastor Meagan know if you are interested!*



SAVE THE DATE: Feed the Need STL

Join other members of the congregation in packing food items to feed the hungry! Anyone (age 5 and up) can participate.

Check back here in the coming weeks for more details.

Supporting LGBTQIA Missourians—a message from PROMO

As you may have heard, we have another busy week coming up. On **Monday, March 6 at noon**, the House Special Committee on Government Accountability will hear HB 489 (Baker R-160) and HB 1196 (Richey R-39). These bills seek to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) standards in education and training. We are asking our "regulars" to sit this one out and take a break from traveling to Jeff City. **We are making a specific ask to submit written testimony and share with your networks to do the same!** *Hey, let's try to break the House website server!*



We do, however, have some positive news!

For the first time this year, the legislature is prioritizing a way to protect LGBTQ+ Missourians rather than harm them. The Missouri Non-Discrimination Act, also known as MONA, is scheduled to have a hearing in the **Senate General Laws Committee on Wednesday, March 8 at 8 a.m.** **Sign up to join us!** We hope to pack the room!



LET US PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your prayer life during this week.

ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS: Those who are suffering from chronic pain & diseases, Shelly Madden, Linda Armstrong, Gege Brightman, Christine Austin, Kate and Brian Bates (John Hoffmann's sister and brother-in-law), Evan Deck, Helga Hayes, Joan (friend of the Rooks), John Hoffmann, Bev & Al Marcus (friend of John Hoffmann), Michael McMullen (Greg McMullen's brother), Anna McIntyre, Donna Munger, Doris & Harry Rahlfs (Karen Wood's parents), Shirley Wolf, and Wayne Wellman (Susanne Reimer-Fey's brother), Kerry Munger (son of Donna Munger).



IN BLESSED MEMORY: Jeff Schmid, Norma Bailey Mendenhall, and for all of those who have died and all of those who grieve, that they may know the presence of God who grieves with us.

Norma Bailey Mendenhall of Pittsburg, KS, widow of the late Rev. Jim Bailey, former pastor at Christ Lutheran, and widow of Terry Mendenhall, passed away on Sunday, February 26, one day after her 81st birthday. Details for Celebration of Life service in Pittsburg are incomplete at this time but may be this weekend.

IN MILITARY SERVICE: Josh Duncan, Chris Hudson, Jesse Proctor, Scott Warr.

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

LET'S CELEBRATE MARCH ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Christ Lutheran family wants to celebrate you!

ANNIVERSARIES:

03/04 — Dave & Chris Austin

03/29 — Bill & Regina Wischmeyer

BIRTHDAYS:

03/01 — Nadia Roberts

03/07 — Leon Bartek

03/07 — Jon Heerboth

03/08 — Jeff Bloese

03/10 — Dave Ringkor

03/11 — Weston Bussler

03/11 — Mike Hoyer

03/13 — Hannah Borden

03/13 — Ellie Zempel

03/14 — Alex Hill

03/14 — Faith Moore

03/15 — Theodore Bennett

03/17 — Xavier Ruff

03/18 — Jerome Egel

03/20 — Regina Wischmeyer



03/23 — Jack Wood

03/25 — Elmer Bibb

03/28 — Claire Holmes

03/29 — Sophia Bude

03/30 — Matt Bender

**Our apologies if we missed anybody!
Please let us know if we did.**

Thank you, Katie Gregston!

We are sorry to tell you that due to an unforeseen shift in staffing needs at Emanuel Episcopal, Katie, who has been supporting our children and youth ministry, is needed on a full time basis at Emanuel. We are so grateful for all you have done with us, Katie!

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6p Lenten Dinner 7p Prayer Service 7:30p Choir Practice	2 4p Fitness Group	3 6p Vigil for Black Lives	4
5 9a Education Hour 10a Worship 11a Dwelling in the Word Group Mtg	6 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4p Fitness group 7p Justice Group	7 10a Text Study 10:30a Bible Study	8 6p Lenten Dinner 7p Prayer Service 7:30p Choir Practice	9 4p Fitness Group	10 6p Vigil for Black Lives	11
12 9a Education Hour 10a Worship 11a Dwelling in the Word Group Mtg	13 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4p Fitness group	14 10a Text Study 10:30a Bible Study 7p Church Council Meeting (Hybrid)	15 6p Lenten Dinner 7p Prayer Service 7:30p Choir Practice	16 4p Fitness Group	17 6p Vigil for Black Lives	18
19 9a Education Hour 10a Worship 11a Dwelling in the Word Group Mtg	20 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4p Fitness group	21 10a Text Study 10:30a Bible Study	22 6p Lenten Dinner 7p Prayer Service 7:30p Choir Practice	23 4p Fitness Group	24 6p Vigil for Black Lives	25
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Facility Use Calendar: The above calendar shows congregational events for CLC. To view when areas of the building may be in use, visit <http://tiny.cc/facility-cal>.

Needing to Use the Building? Please contact the office to reserve your space. We have a busy season approaching and want to ensure there are no conflicts with the use of our building.

2023 Pledge Card: Stewarding Our Gifts

Thankful for God's abundance and continuing to worship and serve with fellow members of Christ Lutheran Church, we pledge to use our spiritual gifts to be stewards of God's love.

Print name(s): _____

I/We celebrate our spiritual gifts of:

Skills/Knowledge:

Passion:

And, therefore, pledge to be stewards in the following ways :

Including, joyfully planning to give \$ _____ in calendar year 2023

Date: _____ Contact info: _____

Check here if you'd like to continue receiving paper offering envelopes.

Please return your pledge card by 12/18/2022.

You may mail this pledge card to the church office, put it in the offering basket or email your pledge form to office@christwg.org



Keep this portion for your records as reminder of your planned giving.

2023 Pledge for Christ Lutheran Church

I/We plan to give a total of \$ _____ by December 31, 2023, to support our Lord's mission and ministry through Christ Lutheran Church – Webster Groves, and to be stewards in the following ways:



Christ Lutheran Church, ELCA

TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011

E-MAIL:
OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG

WEBSITE:
WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M.

REV. MEAGAN MCLAUGHLIN

OFFICE HOURS:

MON-WED, FRI 8:30-4:30
(APPTS BY ARRANGEMENT)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
JESSICA GUNTHER

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR
ADULT MINISTRIES AND
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:**
CAROLYN CROWE

DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS:
DIANE DROLLINGER

ORGANIST:
MARK RUFF

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
MAHLIK GOOD

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
TAMMY PRYOR

WEBMASTER:
MIKE WAGNER/STEPHANIE
LENHART

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Deepening people's connection to Christ,
Bringing meaning to daily life, and
Making a difference in our community.