



# ONE IN CHRIST

Week of December 7 - December 13, 2020

## PASTOR'S WORD



Christ Lutheran family, Advent blessings as our journey continues. Stories of memories of Christmases past that you have shared show the breadth of experience that this season can bring. There is hope, we know—God is with us, we know! And, this year especially, there is grief, and frustration, and pain as we observe and experience the losses and brokenness of the world around us, and even in our own households. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we are still in the dark.

As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, I am reminded of activist Valerie Kaur's claim at the Poor People's Campaign in 2017 that darkness is not the absence of God, and the absence of hope, but has gifts of its own: "What if," she asks, "this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb? But the darkness of the womb? ... What does a midwife tell us to do? Breathe. And then push. Because if we don't push we will die. If we don't push our nation will die. Tonight we will breathe. Tomorrow we will labor." If you are feeling the weight of the world today, or the weight of your own grief or pain, I offer you a Blessing by Jan Richardson to travel with. Peace to you in the joys and hopes and sorrows and pain of this season!

### ***A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark (by Jan Richardson)***

*Go slow if you can. Slower. More slowly still.*

*Friendly dark or fearsome, this is no place to break your neck  
by rushing, by running, by crashing into what you cannot see.*

*Then again, it is true: different darks have different tasks,  
and if you have arrived here unawares,*

*if you have come in peril or in pain,  
this might be no place you should dawdle.*

*I do not know what these shadows ask of you,  
what they might hold that means you good or ill.*

*It is not for me to reckon whether you should linger or you should leave.*

*But this is what I can ask for you:*

*That in the darkness there be a blessing.*

*That in the shadows there be a welcome.*

*That in the night you be encompassed  
by the Love that knows your name.*





Everyone is invited to visit the outdoor nativity in the church yard, if you wish, throughout Advent. Prayers and readings will be available and you can follow Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**You are invited to join us for online Zoom services.** Please be sure Lisette, our **Administrator (at [office@christwg.org](mailto:office@christwg.org))** has your correct e-mail address to receive our Zoom invitations, and if you have technical questions please contact Mike Wagner at 937-416-2429 or [clc.inreach@gmail.com](mailto:clc.inreach@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, December 9,** 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821816784?pwd=NEdXdnRISld2QmVLSEFxcVptelhzdz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 868 2181 6784 **Passcode:** 701073

**Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday of Advent-** 9:30 am Worship, and the Children's Christmas Pageant.

**Wednesday, December 16,** 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821816784?pwd=NEdXdnRISld2QmVLSEFxcVptelhzdz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 868 2181 6784 **Passcode:** 701073

**Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent** - 9:30 am Worship.

**Wednesday, December 23,** 7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821816784?pwd=NEdXdnRISld2QmVLSEFxcVptelhzdz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 868 2181 6784 **Passcode:** 701073

**Thursday, December 24,** 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service, **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84439836988?pwd=RzdHd2NMS2JTWmgrQWRGMkNwb2lDdz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 844 3983 6988 **Passcode:** 036137

**Friday, December 25, Merry Christmas! No Services.**

**Sunday, December 27, First Sunday of Christmas-** Worship at 9:30 am.

***Children's Christmas Program will take place in Worship this Sunday! To be involved, contact Jesse as soon as possible!***

## Following Mary and Joseph's Journey of Hope



### Matthew 1:18-24

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about [d]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet [e] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give

him the name Jesus, [f] because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

### Advent Journal Reflection

Joseph had decided to divorce Mary quietly, because he believed he couldn't marry her when she was already pregnant. Then, Joseph had a dream in which God tells him he should stay with her. **Reflect on this in the red Advent Journal . . . . .**

Have you ever been sure of what to do about a hard situation, and then felt led by God to change your mind?

Have you ever made a decision that you felt God calling you to, but you knew other people would think was wrong, and would judge you for?

### Children's Activity

In the red Advent Journal, draw a picture of the angel coming to Joseph while he was sleeping, to tell him that Mary's baby was Jesus. Do you think he was surprised? Afraid? Happy?

Take home a coloring sheet to color later!

## Volunteer needed to help with remote worship services

We need someone to join the rotation, every 3 weeks, to help with Sunday zoom services. Some proficiency with Zoom required. Please reach out to Pastor Meagan, Becca Jordan or Mike Wagner if interested.

# Stewardship & Offerings

We continue to worship and reach out to people in different ways than we're traditionally accustomed. Staff and members are reaching out proactively to make sure everyone in our congregation is cared for, and connected, as much as possible. We are re-imagining ministry! Now more than ever, it takes all of us to make that happen.



We can continue to fund our church and the important work we're doing with a few easy clicks:

1. Visit [our donation website](#) directly or go to [www.christwg.org](http://www.christwg.org) and scroll down to the 'Give Now' button.
2. You may make a one time or recurring gift. There are NO FEES to withdraw directly from your bank account. Fees do apply for debit/credit card transactions.
3. Optional: set up a profile to be able to change your recurring gifts at any time or view your giving history.
4. Want to walk through the steps with someone? Contact Kate Hoerchler, 314-805-1751, [katehoerchler@gmail.com](mailto:katehoerchler@gmail.com)

If you prefer to make your offering by check or cash, there are mailing envelopes included in your offering envelope package.

Joan O'Brien and Lynnae Ruff, Stewardship Chairs

## Women's Advent "Brunch" Donation Information

Thank you to those who joined us, we are sending donations received to Crisis Nursery.

Their Amazon wish list: <https://www.crisisnurserykids.org/our-wish-list>

Other ways to donate: <https://www.crisisnurserykids.org/ways-to-give>

Women's Advent "Brunch" guest speaker information:

Lydia Wood: <https://www.lydiawood.com/>

## CLC Suggestion Box

Have an idea for how Christ Lutheran Church can make your experience better? Submit an anonymous note at <http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/stwuunh> and we will do our best to help! You



# Fellowship at CLC



## Zoom Bible Study, Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

"David was a man after God's own heart."

What does it mean to be someone "after God's own heart"? David, Old Testament shepherd, king and psalmist, offers an answer in the shape of his own life.

The Tuesday morning Bible study group is using a study guide by Charles R. Swindoll, "David: A Man of Passion & Destiny." We meet at 10 am via Zoom each Tuesday. The long-time participants in this group have each received a copy of the book, and if others would like to join us for this discussion, please let us know so that additional books can be ordered. All are welcome to join us!

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643945421?pwd=V3dxdWY0YkZsRFptWkE2dDBCM3VLUT09>

### **One tap mobile**

+13126266799,,82643945421#,,1#,127284# US (Chicago)

**Call in From Any Phone:** 312 626 6799

**Meeting ID:** 826 4394 5421

**Password:** 127284

## **BlackKlansman Movie Discussion**

The group decided to take a different approach during the next several weeks. Each participant will watch the movie, BlackKlansman\* and meet via Zoom on Dec. 10 at 8:00 pm. Anyone who wants to join the discussion is welcome to participate. More info will follow and questions can be directed to Pastor Meagan.

\* a Spike Lee film set in Colorado Springs in 1970s & based on actual undercover events to infiltrate the white supremacist group (rated R).

Join us for a Zoom discussion about the movie BlackKlansman.

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84754484606?pwd=T3c3VnRmNHcvMG55VU91K2V0YnpyUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 847 5448 4606

**Passcode:** 584723

One tap mobile

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



# WORSHIP

**Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am — Zoom Worship**

**Access Online Bulletin**

Follow the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

**OR**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**One tap mobile**

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

**Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799**

**Meeting ID: 278 217 453**

**Password: 971744**



## **Holiday Giving Update - We Met Our Goals!!!**

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to our holiday giving programs. We have met both our goals for the Adopt-A-Family and the Mary Ryder House in St. Louis! No additional donations are needed at this time, so thank you again for making Christmas very special for these two groups.



### **With your holiday donations:**

- We were able to adopt a local family of five through Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. The mother and her four children will all receive multiple gift cards from Target, Wal-mart, Old Navy, and Kohl's. In addition we purchased gift cards from Schnucks for them to use towards a holiday meal. We wish them a very Merry Christmas! Thank you also to Rachel Helton for her work in organizing, collecting, and delivering the gift cards.

- We were able to purchase wearable wallet lanyards for the 57 ladies of the Mary Ryder House, which is a residential facility for women in St. Louis. This means that each lady will be able to open a gift on Christmas from our congregation. Thank you to Kevin Drollinger and Sherry Mitchler for helping collect and deliver these items.

## ADULT FORUM

*Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* is a book written by the Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas in response to the 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin. Several members of CLC read the book, met regularly to discuss it, then shared their impressions at Adult Forum. Sarah Keifer, Kate Hoerchler, Katie Ciorba, Mark and Jan Roock along with Pastor Meagan told us what they learned and how they were changed by their reading.



Writing as a mother of a Black son, Douglas examines the long history of white exceptionalism that has resulted in the devaluation of the bodies of Black people. In fact, they are deprived of the right to move freely. Since they are often perceived as dangerous, white people have reacted violently, on occasion ending the lives of black people who offered no threat.

When people came from Africa, Douglas says, they brought God with them—an idea that God makes them free. They heard the Biblical story of Moses leading people out of Egypt as universal: God frees everybody.

Douglas argues the pervasive atmosphere of White exceptionalism is the major obstacle to justice for Black Americans. A necessary step for Blacks to realize their God-given freedom is for White Americans to confront attitudes and actions that limit the space Black people inhabit. In other words, the onus is on us.

John Hoffmann offered the analogy of White privilege as a backpack that White people carry around and, through awareness, can remove. Katie Ciorba expanded on that idea and pointed out how easy it is to pick up that backpack of privilege after we thought we had shed it. That is, removing the attitudes of White supremacy is an on-going process.

Alena Horn, speaking from the perspective as a linguist, made two points:

- (1) Standard language is one of the ways in which white supremacy is manifested. The standard language variety (used in government, professional and education settings) is not superior to non-standard varieties, but is perceived to be so because it is the variety used by people in power.
- (2) Poetic traditions that use non-standard language varieties should be taught as part of our literary canon.

The group offered several books for further reading: *Waking Up White And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving and two by Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns* and her latest, *Caste*.

Sarah Keifer announced that the next book is *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla Saad. Sarah recommends buying it from a local bookstore.

A discussion of the film “Blackkkklansman” will be Thursday Dec. 10 at 8:00 on Zoom. A recording of this Adult Forum discussion is in the Church’s Dropbox.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christ Lutheran is planning to give a poinsettia plant to our older members and those members who are homebound. We would invite members to contribute \$7 per plant to help cover the costs of the 24 plants we ordered. Please complete and return the form below to the church office by Dec 22nd. Thank you!

### POINSETTIAS DONATION FORM



This year you can purchase one or more plants for our homebound members at \$7.00 each, which the church will use for decorating the altar on Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24) and will be distributed during Christmas week. Return this form to the office with your payment by Dec 22nd.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of  
poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be donating \_\_\_\_\_ plants for the homebound.  
Cost \$7.00 per plant TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

### December Zoom Virtual Game Night

Saturday, December 12, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Log into Zoom and play a few Jackbox games! (Jackbox has a bunch of mini-games. For more info, visit [www.jackboxgames.com/games/](http://www.jackboxgames.com/games/))

In order to play, you will need two screens: One for the Zoom feed where I will display the questions and another to answer the questions via a web browser. If you only have one computer/laptop/iPad, you can simply split the screen to see both at the same time. (Note: You do not have to download anything in order to play.

You will simply go to the direct link, enter the group code, and start to play. I will provide more info on Friday!)

Since we will be playing multiple mini-games, people can join in whenever they are available.

Hope to see you there!

For further questions, call/text/email Becca at 314-580-0277 or [beccajedwards@gmail.com](mailto:beccajedwards@gmail.com)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85901044566?pwd=aG5lc05zYlplLOWxxWVWkzNTc2MldjQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 0104 4566

Passcode: 268830



# ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

## CELEBRATING DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

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

### ANNIVERSARIES:

12/26 Robert & Joan O'Brien

### BIRTHDAYS:

12/02	Luther Ciorba
12/05	Martin Allen
12/07	Michael Bude
12/07	Liz Drollinger
12/10	Catherine Gunther
12/13	Paige Meadows
12/14	Thomas Ely
12/17	James Gilliland
12/17	Rachel Helton
12/18	Linda Elkin
12/19	Brett Bussler
12/20	Jeffrey Kuziel
12/22	Christopher Lindquist
12/24	Lynnae Tanner Ruff
12/24	Loralie Blaser
12/24	Jodi McCarty
12/25	Jesse Wood
12/30	Pastor Stephanie Doeschot
12/31	Joe Bartek



### Fall and Winter In Community

As the weather turns and opportunities for outdoor gatherings are reduced, we want to invite us all to be creative about how we can stay connected and continue to be in community through the winter months. If you would like to be matched with another household or two to be in intentional connection, if you have ideas for online activities, if you have ideas for outdoor winter activities, or any other thoughts about how we can stay connected, let Pastor Meagan or Council know!



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

**TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011**

**E-MAIL:  
OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG**

**WEBSITE:  
WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG**

**ZOOM WORSHIP SCHEDULE:  
SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.**

**RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN  
MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE  
HOURS: MON-THUR 8:30-4:30  
APPTS BY  
ARRANGEMENT**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:  
KEVIN DROLLINGER**

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

**DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS:  
DIANE DROLLINGER**

**ORGANIST:  
MARK RUFF**

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:  
LISETTE KREITLER**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:  
TAMMY PRYOR**

**CUSTODIAN:  
KELLY LAKIES**

**WEBMASTER:  
PERRY YEE**

## **Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

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