PASTOR'S WORD

Winter is beginning to lean into spring, the days are getting a little longer, but we're not quite there yet. The vaccine is on the way, and yet we still have a ways to go before everyone will have access. In our church life, Epiphany is moving along, and Ash Wednesday is just a couple of weeks away, we have a plan for returning to in-person Worship, and still we are wondering when we will actually be able to gather again. So many things that are in transition, so many things we are wondering about, so much that is uncertain. And yet, life continues each day. If you are tiring of the unknown, or feeling the stress of navigating these days, I offer some encouragement from scripture, poetry, and prayer. Peace to you in these days!

Jeremiah 29:11-14

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will seek me and places where I have banished you." bring you back from captivity. [b] I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

For the Interim Time - John O'Donohue When near the end of day, life has drained Out of light, and it is too soon For the mind of night to have darkened things,

No place looks like itself, loss of outline Makes everything look strangely in-between, Unsure of what has been, or what might come.

In this wan light, even trees seem groundless. In a while it will be night, but nothing Here seems to believe the relief of darkness.

You are in this time of the interim Where everything seems withheld. The path you took to get here has washed out; The way forward is still concealed from you.

"The old is not old enough to have died away; The new is still too young to be born."

You cannot lay claim to anything; In this place of dusk, Your eyes are blurred; And there is no mirror.

Everyone else has lost sight of your heart And you can see nowhere to put your trust; You know you have to make your own way through.

As far as you can, hold your confidence. Do not allow confusion to squander This call which is loosening Your roots in false ground, That you might come free From all you have outgrown.

PASTOR'S WORD



What is being transfigured here in your mind, And it is difficult and slow to become new. The more faithfully you can endure here, The more refined your heart will become For your arrival in the new dawn.

from: "To Bless the Space Between Us" by John O'Donohue. Pub in 2008 by Doubleday.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. -ELW Evening Prayer



Covid-19 Memorial

Topic MO Multi-Faith COVID Memorial Service and Recovery Response

Description Join us for a time of remembrance as we memorialize those who have lost their lives in

the pandemic and a time of strategizing about recovering financially, physically and

emotionally from the pandemic.

Time Feb 8, 2021 05:30 PM in Central Time (US and Canada)



To Register visit:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8316116367185/WN_7RJRBVBXRYqhNtTMiFt8RQ?

eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=22734129-abc2-47a3-a246-c4ca678b93dd



Christ Lutheran Church Plan for Return to In-Person Gathering 1/31/21

The Covid Team will continue to review and update this plan as needed. Please share any questions, concerns, or ideas. Our goal is to be as clear and practical as possible, and your input is welcome!

Criteria for Outdoor Small Group Activity (10 people or fewer) This assumes that criteria for other in-person gathering have not yet been met.

- Notify Pastor Meagan that you would like to meet.
- Meet outdoors only. Participants bring their own lawn chair or blanket to sit on, if possible.
- Everyone must be spaced at least 6 feet apart and wear masks.
- Do not pass anything from one person to another.
- No bathrooms will be available, except in case of an emergency.
- No snacks or beverages can be provided—participants may bring their own beverage or snack.
- Compliance with recommendations of Synod and St Louis County Guidelines.

Criteria for Return to Large Group (over 10 people) Outdoor Gathering

- Percentage of positive tests—Positivity rate of 10% or lower (as of 1/28/21 7-8%).
- Percentage of Task Force Hospitals occupied by Covid-positive or suspected Covid-positive patients 10% or less (as of January 13th regular beds 16%; as of January 18th ICU beds 16.3%).
- R0 under 1
- Masks and distancing required until CDC and local health departments indicate it is no longer necessary, and we will have masks available for those who do not have them.
- Compliance with recommendations of Synod and St Louis County Guidelines.

Criteria for Return to Indoor Small Group Activity

- Implementation of vaccine in our community—All participants have received the full vaccine regimen, with second dose administered no less than 7 days prior to gathering.
- Online participation should be facilitated for those who are not able to be vaccinated, or do not yet feel comfortable gathering in person.
- Masks and 6 feet social distancing required until all Criteria for indoor Worship are met, and all participants
 are comfortable with not wearing masks. Respect for individual and household risk factors and comfort
 level is essential.
- Compliance with recommendations of Synod and St Louis County Guidelines.

Criteria for Return to Indoor Worship

- Implementation of vaccine—Vulnerable populations, including 65+ and those with underlying conditions, have had practical access to the vaccine for at least one month. Although requiring vaccine for Worship is not possible, everyone is highly encouraged to receive the vaccine prior to attending any indoor in-person activity, especially Worship. In recognition that not everyone may be vaccinated, remaining requirements are tighter than other activities.
- Percentage of positive tests—Positivity rate of 5% or lower (as of 1/28/21 8%).
- Percentage of Task Force Hospital beds occupied by Covid-positive or suspected Covid-positive patients 10% or less (as of January 13th regular beds 16%; as of January 18th ICU beds 16.3%).
- R0 under 1
- Masks and distancing required until CDC and local health departments indicate it is no longer necessary, and we will have masks available for those who do not have them.
- Compliance with recommendations of Synod and St Louis County Guidelines.

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 <u>our donation website</u> directly or go to <u>www.christwg.org</u> 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

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

Back at Home

Carolyn Lange is back home and doing well, and thanks everyone for all the well wishes!

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





Thanks to all the members of Christ Lutheran who attended our annual meeting yesterday! We approved a budget for 2021, and elected a new Church Council as well.

We would like to thank the following retiring Council members for your service to CLC: Tore Stole, Jon Heerboth, Mike Wagner, Susanne Reimer-Fey, Brent Wood, and Melissa Allen.

Welcome to our newly elected 2021 Council:

President - Kevin Drollinger

Vice President - Steve Mitchler

Treasurer - Larry Hill

Secretary - Sandy Hoyer

Worship Chair - John Hoffman

Properties Chair - Keith Lissant

Education Chair - Kate Hoerchler

Christian Services Chair - Erin Eftink

Fellowship Chair - Becca Jordan

Stewardship Chairs - Joan O'Brien and Lynnae Ruff

Youth Chair - Sharon Hornbeck

Outreach Chair - TBD (still looking for a volunteer!)

Thanks to Erin Eftink and Becca Jordan who spearheaded the Nominating process for this year. Our Council has a lot of work ahead so stay tuned for updates!

Kevin Drollinger - Council President

Youth Zoom Hangout, Sunday February 7 at 12:30 PM

If you have been confirmed and are interested in connecting with other youth, join us for discussion during our normal time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 12:30 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/924665200?pwd=OWYvT0Z5MmdoVG84R3dDUmJXVXd5dz09

Meeting ID: 924 665 200 Password: 271433

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,924665200#,,1#,271433# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



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!

WORSHIP

Sunday, February 7, 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



Adult Forum

On February 14 Lydia Wood, an artist and nurse, will tell us of her work with people affected by gun violence. She will show the portraits she has created and share stories of the people she has met. Lydia spoke at the Women's Advent Brunch in December.



Finding a Faithful Response to Racism in our World

The Anti-Racism and Faith group will continue their journey in 2021. All are welcome to join us!

Next Meeting: February 23, 2021 at 8pm on Zoom.

We will be discussing Week Two (p75-123) of Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Sadd

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84020544259?pwd=dFhjaHVTdWVUcWdUM0U1NG9JcVkyQT09

Meeting ID: 840 2054 4259

Passcode: 536541

Dial in

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Fellowship at CLC

Zoom Bible Study, Tuesday February 2nd, 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/i/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

For Lenten study & enrichment Lutheran School of Theology St Louis presents Jesus & the Gospels: Searching the Passion Narratives and Gospel Theologies

Taught by Zoom on Thursdays, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2021, 9:00 - 11:00 AM CST Instructor: Dr. Fred Niedner taught biblical studies and Hebrew Language in Valparaiso University's Department of Theology for 40 years.

The early Christians took four "gospels" that tell Jesus' story into their canon and almost immediately struggled with "harmonizing" them. Still today, some attempt to force these four voices into a single melodic line of the sort some of us remember hearing read every year during Lent. This six-week course during Lent involves listening to the unique voice, theology, and proclamation of each gospel, with particular emphasis on how the Passion Narrative of each reveals its own peculiar way of melding Jesus' story and the story of its hearers and readers into one liberating, life-given narrative. The more carefully we listen to this quartet, the more we come to understand that no solo voice could ever communicate the fullness of what the fourth gospel called "the Word of God dwelling among us."

Participants would benefit significantly from having a "synopsis" of the four gospels available during sessions. The most common print version is Synopsis of the Four Gospels, edited by Kurt Aland and published by the United Bible Societies. Other synopses are available, either in print or on-line. Additional information will be sent upon registration received. Contact Program Administrator Stephanie Doeschot at Iststlinfo@gmail.com

\$80 registration fee -https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jesus-and-the-gospels-tickets-134429707875?ref=estw

Altar Flowers

The 2021 sign-up for flowers is shown below. If you wish to underwrite the cost of the altar flowers for a particular week, please inform Lisette of the date you would like, two families may share the cost for one date. Please send your payment to the office, the cost is \$40 per arrangement. Until we meet in person, the flowers will be available to deliver to the homebound or sick.

1	
January 17, 2021	
January 24, 2021	
January 31, 2021	
February 7, 2021	
February 14, 2021	
February 21, 2021	Lent - no flowers
February 28, 2021	Lent - no flowers
March 7, 2021	Lent - no flowers
March 14, 2021	Lent - no flowers
March 21, 2021	Lent - no flowers
March 28, 2021	Palm Sunday - palms
April 4, 2021	Easter - lilies
April 11, 2021	Lilies
April 18, 2021	
April 25, 2021	

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

CELEBRATING FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

ANNIVERSARIES:

2/14 Joan & Robert Rivas 2/14 Mari & Travis Roberts

BIRTHDAYS:

2/01 Calvin Ciorba

2/01 Shirley Wolf

2/02 Julia Bruns

2/02 Helga Hayes

2/03 Kevin Drollinger

2/03 Sarah Ely

2/03 Larry Hill

2/04 Aishlyn McCarty

2/06 Kathy Kuziel

2/07 Sarah Keifer

2/08 Amy Chelgreen

2/09 Shaun Chelgreen

2/09 Carol Brockelmeyer

2/09 Patty Hopper

2/10 Hanna Lauer

2/10 Mark Roock

2/13 Julia Wood

2/13 Sylvia Rogers

2/19 Christine Austin

2/19 Henry Knapp

2/20 Robert Crowe

2/20 Elisabeth Long

2/23 Bob Brockelmeyer

2/25 Caitlin McMullen

2/28 Sally Wachtman

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



Christ Lutheran Face Masks

Fabric face masks were included in the Advent packages sent to each household. We have extras in the office if you did not receive one and would like one. Email or call the office to request one.



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.