Pastor's Word



This week, we are at the half-way mark in our 40-day Lenten journey. Just like Jesus' time in the desert, the road can be long and weary-ing. Just like our Covid experience, we may be wondering if we will ever finally get there! I don't know about you, but I have found myself wandering in the desert a bit the last few days. Wandering in the Covid desert, lost in the Lenten desert, bogged down in the routine of life.

What a perfect time to remember that we are not on a journey TO Jesus, but WITH Jesus! The Israelites thought God had abandoned them, but God showed them that he was present in their desert. And Jesus reminds us today that the cross in the distance is a reminder that he is with us not just when things feel free and easy, but when things feel long and tiring, when we feel lost, and even in our greatest pain.

And, so, at this half-way point, how is it with your soul? Where are you seeing God at work in your life in these days? What truths have you learned about yourself and God? Where have you experienced life, and where have you been able to sow seed with hope? How can you make space for God this week?

The Lenten season continues, and God is with us! May you feel the Spirit at work as you walk on.



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

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





Wednesday, March 10

7:00 pm Lenten Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. Join Zoom at 6pm for dinner fellowship hour. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573753121?pwd=MjZoZExBTkJQaUR3YkFsNkJkMVY5UT09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 815 7375 3121 **Passcode**: 431398

Wednesday, March 17

7:00 pm Lenten Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. Join Zoom at 6pm for dinner fellowship hour.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573753121?pwd=MjZoZExBTkJQaUR3YkFsNkJkMVY5UT09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 815 7375 3121 **Passcode**: 431398

Wednesday, March 24

7:00 pm Lenten Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. Join Zoom at 6pm for dinner fellowship hour.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573753121?pwd=MjZoZExBTkJQaUR3YkFsNkJkMVY5UT09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 815 7375 3121 **Passcode**: 431398

Wednesday, March 31

7:00 pm Lenten Worship, Holden Evening Prayer. Join Zoom at 6pm for dinner fellowship hour.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573753121?pwd=MjZoZExBTkJQaUR3YkFsNkJkMVY5UT09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 815 7375 3121 **Passcode**: 431398

Maundy Thursday, April I

7:00 pm Worship.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89639544814?pwd=RWx4bDFtNEFwanNkOUtPM1U5T09zZz09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 896 3954 4814 **Passcode**: 696988

Good Friday, April 2 7:00 pm Worship.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88281882730?wd=bUh3dGJXeGZ4VjVMWGR2SXZpOGVSQT09

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 **Meeting ID**: 882 8188 2730 **Passcode:** 734466

Information about Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be published soon.

Upcoming Fellowship Events

Mark your calendars for 2021 Fellowship events!

- Friday, March 19 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
- Saturday, May 22 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
- Saturday, August 28 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
- Friday, October 1 7:00 pm 10:00 pm
- Saturday, October 30 Trunk or Treat!



We will focus on virtual game nights at this time, but (maybe, hopefully) we can look into other types of Fellowship options for the later dates. Hoping to give us all something to look forward to!

Christian Service

Beginning in Mid-April, CLC will form a group to work with the Christian Service Committee to examine and make changes to our current list of donation recipients. Currently we have a group of roughly 10-15 organizations and non-profits that receive benevolence checks from our church twice a year. We will meet via Zoom or in-person to discuss this list, and how we can update it to better align with the goals and mission of our congregation. If you are interested in being part of this discussion, or have any questions, please contact Erin Eftink at erineftink@sbcglobal.net.

Vacation Bible School 2021 Planning

This year's VBS will take place in early to mid August. If you would like to participate in the planning stage of this event, contact Alena Horn at alena.horn@gmail.com.



Youth Zoom Hangout, March 21 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)



WORSHIP

<u>Sunday, March 14, 9:30 am — Zoom Worship</u> <u>Access Online Bulletin</u>

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



Women's Group

The women of Christ Lutheran are invited to join our virtual meetings taking place the second Thursday of each month. **Our first meeting of 2021 will be Thursday, March 11.** We will catch up with each other and jump into some Bible study. Hope to see you there!

Zoom meeting information:

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86806779211?

pwd=UTBDZG1EcjJtL3NUTmxBa1Z1ZG9ydz09

Meeting ID: 868 0677 9211

Passcode: 989376

Any questions? Reach out to Becca Jordan at beccajedwards@gmail.com.



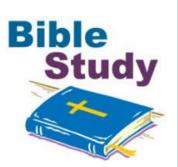
Fall and Winter In Community

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!

Fellowship at CLC

Zoom Bible Study, Tuesday March 9th, 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)

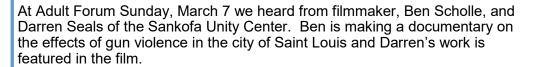
Call in From Any Phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 826 4394 5421

Password: 127284

Adult Forum

March 21—Dr. Fred Niedner, a Professor at Valparaiso University, will discuss how each Gospel writer chose to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection to reach his target audience.





Ben said his research has shown him that gun violence is a public health problem with myriad causes that requires varied responses that extend beyond policing. And, he pointed out, the tragedies and traumas caused by that violence are felt beyond the neighborhoods where it happens. He compared it to climate change which also has many causes and affects everybody to varying degrees.

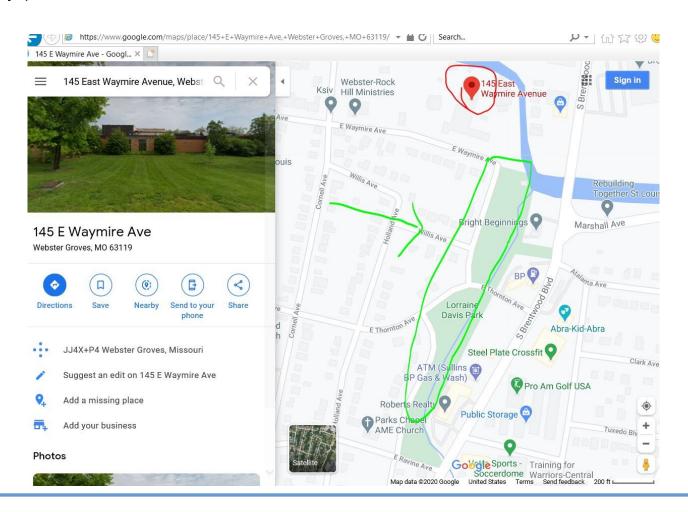
Darren, a self-described former gangster, told how he heard God speak and call him to make a radical change in his life. He left his gun and his bullet-proof vest at the front of the church and began working with young men in the Walnut Park neighborhood of north Saint Louis. He works to save them from falling into the cycle of shooting and revenge.

Darren has rehabbed the former Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church building to house the Sankofa Unity Center and is part of the Cure Violence program in the City.

Ben summarized by saying that though gun violence has been politicized, everyone agrees that work needs to be done to stop it. He pointed out that Darren has had positive results working with Kim Gardner, the Democratic Circuit Attorney of the City of Saint Louis, and Mike Kehoe, the Lieutenant Governor of Missouri, a Republican.

CLC Service Event

Hello, everyone! We are planning to do another park clean-up event in coordination with the Webster Parks Department. Please come join us on **Saturday, March 20th, from 9:30-11:30 am** - all ages are welcome! We will be helping plant and harvest seed along the trail and creek, as well as removing some winter vines and honeysuckle stumps, so please wear long pants and sleeves, and bring your gardening gloves. **We will plan to meet at Lorraine Davis Park, meeting/parking location 145 E. Waymire, Webster Groves**. This area is adjacent to the park (see attached map). This is a great way to help our local community, enjoy the spring weather (hopefully warm and sunny!) and see each other in person. We will be following social distancing protocols, so please don't forget your masks! Please e-mail Erin Eftink at erineftink@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions. Thanks!



Community Assistance

This spring we are planning to have several parking lot collections to support Webster - Rock Hill Ministries. In particular they are in need of canned vegetables and cereal, and other non-perishable food and toiletries/household goods are always appreciated. We will collect donations every 4th weekend of the month, beginning with Palm Sunday, March 28th. Please look for more details to come in the next few weeks, and thank you for your generosity!

HOW DO I GET VACCINATED?

You must be eligible.

In Missouri, health care workers, emergency responders, people 65 and older and those under 65 with specific underlying health conditions are eligible for vaccination.

If you're eligible, pre-register at several of the local health systems, as well as with

St. Louis County: stlcorona.com/covid19-vaccines

St. Louis City: stlouis-mo.gov/covid-19

Statewide Missouri Vaccine Navigator: covidvaccine.mo.gov

or MOStopsCovid.com



For those who are unable to pre-register electronically, the following phone numbers could be helpful:

Missouri Vaccine Navigator: 1-877-435-8411

St. Louis County: 314-615-2660 St. Louis City: 314-612-5100

KWMU (local NPR station) Vaccine Hotline: 314-516-6430

SSM Health System is scheduling vaccine appointments by phone for those who are 75 and older: 314-955-9600

Members are invited to confidentially let Pastor Meagan or Carolyn Crowe know if you have received the vaccine or need assistance with pre-registering, to help aid efforts to return to in person worship.

If you have any questions please contact faith community nurse, Carolyn Crowe: 314-277-2164

ccrowe@sbcglobal.net

Or Jessica Gunther:

jessicalgunther@gmail.com

Creation Care

Last year in anticipation of Earth Day 2020 the Creation Care team was collecting pill bottles. Unfortunately like so many things in 2020, this project was placed on hold due to COVID. The bottles are reused for mission trips by an organization called Matthew 25: Ministries. Our role will be to sort, organize and prepare the pill bottles to be sent to their offices in Ohio. We are hopeful that there will be an opportunity to gather in person to work on preparing the pill bottles to be sent to Matthew 25: Ministries. However, we will wait until closer to Earth Day 2021 - April 22nd to make any definite plans. In the meantime please either continue or start collecting used pill bottles that can be reused for mission trips. They can be either prescription medication bottles or over the counter medication bottles. If you can remove the labels from the prescription bottles that will assist in preparing them and also ensure privacy about any medications prescriped for individuals. There is a basket in the fellowship hall to place the bottles in, or we will have a set day closer to April to request the bottles to be brought to church. Please contact me by email if you have any questions. Thank You on behalf of the Creation Care Team. Sherry Mitchler-s.mitchler@sbcglobal.net

Thanks, Sherry

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

LET'S CELEBRATE MARCH ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

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

BIRTHDAYS:

	-
03/01	Nadia Roberts
03/04	Aja Hornbeck
03/05	Julia Ely
03/07	Leon Bartek
03/07	Jon Heerboth
03/08	Jeff Bloese
03/10	Dave Ringkor
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
03/19	Elsa Hoyer
03/20	Regina Wischmeyer
03/22	Natalie Bruns
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.





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

Lutheran School of Theology Class

Stand Your Ground Bible Study - Ān Introduction to Womanist Theology

This study is an introduction to Womanist theology, a way of understanding God and the Bible from the experiences of Black women in the United States. We will discuss this theological movement's origins, its commitments to justice for Black women (as well as all persons who suffer oppression), and the relevance of Womanist theology in light of current turmoils in the United States. To help accomplish these goals, we will read Kelly Brown Douglas's text, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, which explores the relationship between the murder of Trayvon Martin and the cross of Jesus Christ, amid the history of exploitation of Black bodies in the United States.

Instructor: Dr. Linda Thomas, Full Professor of Theology and Anthropology at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

Dates: Saturdays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2021

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am CST

The classes will be taught via Zoom, and will be recorded to be viewed by students who miss a session due to a work or illness

event. Cost: \$60 To register:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-your-ground-bible-study-an-introduction-to-womanist-theology-tickets-143449179357

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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