

Update from the Covid-19 Team



January 5, 2022

Christ Lutheran family,

Our Covid Response Team met last evening, discussed the status of cases and hospitalizations in our Metro Area Task Force Hospitals, and considered our current programs and processes. We reflected particularly on whether there is a need for any change at this time. Here are things we know.

- The vaccines we have are still proving to be highly effective in preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death due to Covid.
- New cases and hospitalizations are currently at their highest numbers ever in this pandemic.
- The seriousness of the cases is much lower than has been the case in past spikes, so far fewer people are experiencing serious illness from Covid than in the past, and far fewer people are in need of ICU care for Covid than was the case last fall.
- Unlike last year, when there were very few cases of flu and other respiratory illnesses, this year has seen a high number of people with seasonal illnesses other than Covid, and these combined with Covid are leading to the high number of hospitalizations.
- People with compromised immune systems (especially those who have had organ transplants or those who have conditions requiring immuno-suppressant medications such as rheumatoid arthritis) have a notably higher risk of contracting a serious case of Covid.
- Dr. Philip indicates that based on what he is seeing at the hospital and case studies, just about all of us can anticipate getting Covid at some point. Those who are vaccinated and otherwise healthy will likely be asymptomatic or have mild symptoms and will recover without complications. Even with the Omicron variant, vaccination reduces the risk of symptomatic infection, and there are fewer symptomatic cases than there would be without.
- The vaccines we have are still proving to be highly effective in preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death due to Covid.

After reflecting on all these points, here is how Christ Lutheran is responding to what we are seeing.

- We will continue to require masks at Worship for all participants, except for the preacher, who will remove their mask only while preaching. Small groups, volunteers, and staff are expected to wear masks in the building except when in your private space.
- The Adult Forum Leadership Team and the Refreshments Team have made the decision to postpone resuming Adult Forums and coffee hour until February, due to the risk inherent in serving food and beverage.
- Sunday School leadership is meeting this week to discuss plans for starting Sunday School! Information about that will be coming to parents and the congregation soon, and will absolutely consider the complexities and challenges inherent in ministering safely with children in this pandemic time.
- The Council and Worship Team will be considering a recommendation from the Covid Team to hold the upcoming Annual Meeting and January 30 Worship completely on Zoom, to allow everyone to participate safely on an equal basis, rather than having some "in the room" and some on Zoom. Information will be forthcoming about plans for January 30!

Update from the Covid-19 Team

- We encourage all of you to make the best decisions for yourselves and your households about how to participate in Worship and other activities at Christ Lutheran. For some, we understand that you may need to temporarily withdraw from in-person activities and commitments. Please let us know if you need to step back from in-person commitments and know that those decisions are expected and respected, and if you have any questions or concerns. We are grateful to have a strong and committed Tech Team supporting online access whenever possible.
- Most importantly: if you are feeling ill in any way, please take care of yourself and others by staying home, seeking Covid testing and medical attention as needed and possible, and returning to inperson activities when your symptoms are gone.

As always, if there is anything you need, please let us know! Pastor Meagan, Nurse Carolyn Crowe, Stephen Ministers, and your church community are here for you. If you need a home visit, emotional support, spiritual support, support in navigating medical care, a hot meal, or anything else, reach out!

Peace and good health to you in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Meagan McLaughlin Kevin Drollinger, Council President John Hoffman, Worship Committee Chair Jon Heerboth, Worship Committee Diane Drollinger, Director of Choirs Mark Ruff, Organist Carolyn Crowe, Faith Community Nurse Dr. Philip Mudd, viral infection specialist Becca Jordan, Fellowship Chair Kate Hoerchler, Children's Education Chair



WORSHIP

3

Sunday, January 16, 9:30 am, Worship Access Online Bulletin

Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary.

OR

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

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453? pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09

One tap mobile

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

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 278 217 453 Password: 971744



Sunday School

We're going to start weekly Sunday School meetings after service in the sanctuary – or outside if the weather is warmer – on January 16th. Even though it will look different this spring because of Covid, we are so excited to start this back up after almost 2 years! We'll give everyone 10 minutes to clear out of church after service, and then we'll start in. We do not plan to separate into classes; we'll just stay together as one big group. We also anticipate that we'll meet for a shorter amount of time than in years past. If any adults out there want to help, please reach out to either Pastor or Jesse Helton. We'll make it super easy, and the kids will love having new people to interact with. Even if you have never taught Sunday school in the past, we'd love to have you!



Congregational Meeting

Join us after worship on January 30th for the Annual Congregational meeting on Zoom. More details to follow.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the hard-working group who put away the Christmas decorations after the service yesterday. It was great to see so many pitching in. A special thanks to Katie and Ricky Mudd, who worked carefully and hard to help with the Christmas tree decorations. It won't be long until we're hanging the greens again. Christmas is just around the corner. Worship Committee



Thank you Kelly!

Due to L'Arche moving and the potential sale of the Mead Center our need for services has reduced and Kelly has made the decision to seek other employment. We thank Kelly for her many years of service at CLC. We are working on how best to cover custodial needs in our church building. If you or someone you know are interested in working 10 hours a week please let Lisette know at office@christwg.org.

Message from Webster-Rock Hill Ministries

As part of the Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 17th, we will be joining several other organizations in a food drive from 9am-12pm. We invite you to drop off donated food items to Webster Rock Hill Ministries on that day. Thank you for your service!

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,<u>katehoerchler@gmail.com</u>

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

New Book for the Race Book Group

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

Please join us for a communitywide book study organized by the Alliance for Interracial Dignity and the Webster Equity Bridge. McGhee's book digs into policy and people's mindsets, arguing the idea that the country has fallen into too much of a zero sum game thinking that if one racial group succeeds too much then another fails. She argues that white people in addition to minorities have suffered due to racist policies and when all races are included and supported in policies, all races benefit.

We will discuss the first set of 5 chapters and the last set of 5 chapters in late January and early February respectively with members of our church via Zoom. The opportunity to join the community discussion is at the Webster Library on February 9th at 6:30 pm.

Contact Kate Hoerchler with any questions or for help acquiring the book. <u>katehoerchler@gmail.com</u>, 314-805-1751.

Vigil For Black Lives

Every Friday from 6:00-6:30, congregations on Lockwood join together to stand for black lives, in our community and beyond. We take a short half an hour each week to be visible on Lockwood with signs of solidarity with our black siblings. It is a small way for us to make it known that we stand against racism in all the ways it impacts all of us. Please join us!

2022 Council Openings

We have several openings for the 2022 Church Council, which will begin meeting in late January. we would love for you to consider being a part of this special group! Each chair serves a two-year term and meets once a month with the rest of Council (the past year through Zoom) to discuss important church issues. Below is a description of all the positions that are open. We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining the Council in continuing the good works at Christ Lutheran Church.

If you are interested, please contact Sandy Hoyer at <u>hoyer.sandra60@gmail.com</u> or Kate Hoerchler at <u>katehoerchler@gmail.com</u>.

President: Manage the overall Council process, prepare agendas, deal with larger issues as necessary, helps to recruit volunteers for various positions, and interface with Pastor Meagan.

Secretary: Takes notes at the monthly Council meetings, at the Annual Congregational meeting, and sends out minutes to Council members via e-mail.

Fellowship: Coordinates Christ Lutheran activities and events throughout the year. A few of those events include: Wurstfest, Trunk or Treat, Advent Brunch, Wednesday Advent and Lenten dinners, Easter brunch, 4th of July and various other activities, like Winter Wonderland carriage rides, celebrations (Pastor Meagan's Welcome party), themed parties (St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo), pool parties, etc. While you are the main coordinator, there are plenty of members throughout the congregation willing to serve on committees and offer their time and expertise.

Christian Services: Helps organize and coordinate donation drives that help local non-profits, such as Webster RockHill Ministries. In addition, the chair helps plan congregational activities that bring people together to serve the local community. The Christian Service chair is also responsible for working with the Treasurer and Council to determine which organizations and non-profits receive donations (benevolences) from Christ Lutheran Church. Some specific drives and activities we have done in the last few years include: school supply donations for WRHM, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas through WRHM, buying gifts for the ladies of the Mary Ryder house at Christmas, helping clean up local Webster Groves parks, donating masks to the Rockwood Retirement Community and participating in the 2019 Crop Hunger Walk.

Stewardship: Stewardship is the judicious management of the time, talents and money that the Lord has given each of us to use for his glory. Our committee plans an annual pledge campaign - usually early in the year to encourage members to pledge and to monetarily contribute toward our benevolences and the mission of our Church. In addition, we encourage each member to volunteer to charities and to use their talents as needed within our Church, our community and the world.

Youth: The Youth Chair is the voice for the youth and their parents, helps with getting information to the youth and families about mission trips, and gathers the money and paperwork that is due for these trips. The Youth Chair has, in the past, lead the youth group on Sunday mornings, joined by Pastor Meagan.

In-Reach: The chair is responsible for ensuring a fulfilling experience at Christ Lutheran for current members, during and outside of the services. This involves making sure people have access to the service and soliciting ideas for possible improvement. In-Reach also provides support to other committees, especially the Fellowship and Worship committees, as there is a fair amount of overlap between them. During COVID, In-Reach has helped coordinate all the technology for the Zoom church services. Other jobs include the following (with Joan O'Brien's help): monthly Anniversary/Birthday cake & balloons in Fellowship Hall (once allowed again); monthly mailings of Anniversary/Birthday/Get well/ Sympathy cards; periodic updates for the printed and web directories; planning welcome parties for new members; and organizing our 4th of July parade involvement (either IN the parade or opening our Church's restrooms for organizers and parade participants; followed by a BBQ rib picnic lunch with pot luck side dishes for church members and friends.

Outreach: The Outreach chair is responsible for helping promote Christ Lutheran Church in the local community, raising awareness and piquing interest with potential new members in the community in CLC services and events. A few common and primary responsibilities of the Outreach Chair include: Assisting with the promotion of CLC Easter and Christmas services, and special events; determining, planning and promoting events such as "Views and Brews" speaker series, Trivia Night, CLC's 120th anniversary, etc.

The women of Christ Lutheran are invited to join our meetings taking place the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. More details to come! Any questions? Reach out to Becca Jordan at <u>beccajedwards@gmail.com</u>.

Choir Practice

All who love to sing are welcome at church Wednesday January 19 at 7:30 pm. You must be fully vaccinated and two weeks past your final vaccine to participate. For questions, I can be contacted at <u>dianedrollinger@gmail.com</u>. Thanks!

Tuesday Bible Study

Meetings will resume in the parish hall in February.

Altar Flower Sign-up If you wish to donate flowers for a particular week, please attach a check for \$50 made payable to Christ Lutheran Church with "Flower Fund" in the memo and mail this form to the office. The cost of an arrangement can be shared by two families or individuals if you wish.

Name_

Date donating flowers_







In person Adult Forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall and will also be available on Zoom. If you choose Zoom just stay connected after the Sunday morning service. We anticipate a 10-15 minute break between the end of the postlude and the beginning of Adult Forum.

Upcoming Forums:

Due to the increase risk of COVID infection from the omicron variant, the adult forum hiatus will extend through January. We plan to resume meeting in the fellowship hall in February.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your prayer life during this week. <u>ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS:</u> 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), Michael Cooper (Edith Cooper's grandson), Evan Deck, Helga Hayes, John Hoffmann, Elsie Johnson, Gerri Mac (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), Bev & Al Marcus (friend of John Hoffmann), Betsy



Nielson (Nancy Lissant's sister), Doris & Harry Rahlfs (Karen Wood's parents), Edward Ruebeck (Roocks' grand-nephew), Ken Ruppar (friend of Mark Roock), Flo Saeger, Sherri Swanson, Shirley Wolf, Mary Stough (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), and Wayne Wellman (Susanne Reimer-Fey's brother).

IN BLESSED MEMORY: For all of those who have died, especially Edith Cooper, and all of those who grieve at a distance in this time.

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

CLC Suggestion Box

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



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

CELEBRATING JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

ANNIVERSARIES:

1/13 Kim & Dave Donermeyer 1/19 Jadee & Steve Lauer

BIRTHDAYS:

1/05 Sharon Hornbeck
1/08 Brian Hornbeck
1/11 Flo Saeger
1/13 Nancy Lissant
1/15 Deanne Bussler
1/15 Carson Glascock
1/15 James Knapp
1/15 Alex Lindquist
1/18 Isaac Helton
1/19 Kate Drollinger
1/20 Christine Heerboth
1/28 Alex Bennett
1/29 Sloane Bartek

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



JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30a Worship 11:45a Coffee fel- lowship	3 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves	4	5 7:30p Choir practice	6 7p Women's Book Group	7	8
9 9:30a Worship	12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves	7p Church Council meeting in Confer- ence room	12 7p Worship team meeting 7:30p Choir practice	13	14	15
16 9:30a Worship	17 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves	18 7p Church Council meeting in Confer- ence room	19 7:30p Choir practice	20	21	22
23/30 9:30a Worship Jan 30, Annual Congregation meeting on Zoom after service	24/31 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves	25 7p Church Council meeting in Confer- ence room	26 7:30p Choir practice	27	28	29

10



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

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

RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE HOURS: MON-WED, FRI 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.