

Wandering Heart

The season of Lent is often a time set aside for reflection, contemplative spiritual practices, and wandering on a journey. This year we will focus on the life and faith of Peter, one of Jesus' most famous disciples. Peter was many things that seemed to contradict each other: steadfast and unsteady, a follower and a wanderer, a dear friend and betrayer. By following Peter's journey, we see the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of someone trying to figure it all out – just like us.

We will use materials from *A Sanctified Art* that explore Peter's story from the first Sunday of Lent through the second Sunday of Easter. The series' creators write: "In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. In Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story and reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys."



Stay tuned for more details about our Lenten devotional materials, and find more information about Wednesdays in Lent on page two.

Deacon Laura

Annual Meeting

Please make every effort to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church on **February 11**. The meeting will follow worship which begins at 9:30 am. The agenda includes a 2023 Year in Review and a video greeting from Bishop Stacie Fidlar of the Northern Illinois Synod. We'll vote on many important items: the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan (budget), ratification of the updated constitution (revised in 2022), and election of new church leadership in a variety of roles including council members, committee members and representatives of CLC for synod assembly and delegates for the Rockford Lutheran School Board. Worshipping friends of the congregation will be able to attend with the privilege of voice, but not vote. Childcare will be provided during this important meeting!

Please note: There will be one service only on Sunday, February 11 at 9:30 am.

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HYMN WORKSHOP

PATHWAYS

Have you heard about PATHWAYS' new monthly offering, **Spiritual Practices**? Offered the first Thursday of each month, we will introduce ancient spiritual practices, and "rediscover" our faith as a way of life, not simply a belief system. Join us at our next offering on Thursday, February 1 at 10 am.

ALSO IN FEBRUARY...

Hymn Workshop: February 3

Pastor Jaci McNeil leads our time of learning about the history behind some of the hymns. \$15 registration; sign up at seekthepath.org or in the gathering space.

Easter Card Making: February 17

A fun Saturday morning for you (and a friend) as we make Easter cards. Our resident card making "guru" Judith Loudin guides us from 10 am to 12 pm. \$15 registration fee to help cover materials. Join us!

FEBRUARY 3 9AM GATHERING
9:30AM-12PM

PATHWAYS

A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



In the CLC Family

(We have been remiss in not publishing member deaths in the newsletter over the last few months. We apologize and sincerely regret the oversight.)

We express our condolences to the family of Bev Frank who died January 20; the family of Gail Francik who died November 14; and the family of Delia Schoepfer who died October 31.

May light perpetual shine on these saints. +

Sanctuary Set-Up

Muscle Needed!

The sanctuary will be reconfigured to be in the round during the season of Lent. We are in need of volunteers to help move chairs, platforms, and other things in the sanctuary on Monday, February 12. We'll begin at 5 pm. Pizza will be provided! Let Deacon Laura or Jennifer know if you can make it.



Lenten Wednesdays

We begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 14 with the Imposition of Ashes and Worship at 7 pm.

Our Lenten Wednesday evenings begin February 21 with the following schedule:

5:30 pm Soup Supper

6:15 pm Education

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

The schedule for set-up and clean-up is as follows:

February 21: Spirit Ringers & Singers

February 28: Men of Christ

March 6: PATHWAYS, Stewardship, Youth & Young Adults

March 13: Service & Outreach, Education, Evangelism

March 20: Council

February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Service & Outreach

ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts returns during the season of Lent once again. Sponsor an animal, textbooks and supplies for students, or access to clean drinking water and sanitation around the world. Look for the table in the gathering space starting on Sunday, February 18.



Mosaic HUB goes into the community. Join us at the Pottery Lounge on Friday, February 16 at 10 am. Cost is \$10-\$13 per person. Let Deacon Laura know if you plan to attend by Tuesday, February 13.

Learning & Gathering

Adult Forum explores the contemplative practice of mindfulness on February 4, and hears from CLC Mission Endowment Fund grant recipients One Body Collaboratives and Rockford Area Interfaith Garden on February 18 & 25.

Young Adults will try to beat the clock again on Friday, February 9. We'll join forces beginning at 6 pm at 815 Escape. Space is limited so RSVP to Deacon Laura by Tuesday, February 6.

grat.i.tude

/ noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

An Appreciative Staff Thanks You

CLC members, where to begin with our thanks?

- 1) Serving in ministry with each member of this faith family — thank you!
- 2) Receiving your generous staff Christmas gift that humbled and moved us — thank you!
- 3) Joyfully joining our spirits in work, worship and play to serve and honor Christ our Lord — thank you!

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your lovely gesture of appreciation. We give thanks for you all!

- the CLC staff



Christ in Literature

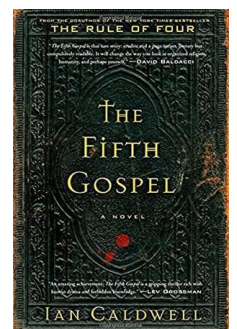
"A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history." A story that connects three time periods is the next book for discussion at Christ in Literature. Join us on Monday, February 5 at 3 pm as we discuss the novel *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Book of the Month (staff pick):

The Fifth Gospel by Ian Caldwell

A secret meeting of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches, the murder of a scholar, a missing artifact, the discovery of the long-forgotten Diatessaron. Now two brothers, both priests—one Roman Catholic, the other Eastern Catholic—must solve the murder of their scholarly friend, find the missing artifact, and unravel the mystery of an alleged fifth gospel or one of them will wind up in prison for the murder. If you enjoyed any of Dan Brown's novels, this one is right up your alley.

submitted by Michelle Nelson





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Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 am*

***Sunday, Feb. 11 @ 9:30 am (one service only)**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

Al Francik	President
Lee Blackburn	Vice President
Sue Hunter	Secretary
Jeff Bieck	Treasurer
Jenny Campbell	Council Member
Tari Flack	Council Member
John Herring	Council Member
Peter Hightower	Council Member
Lori Murphy	Council Member
Syd Nolan	Council Member
Denise Rindels	Council Member
Dave Swanson	Council Member

Our Staff

Rev. Carol Baumgartner	Transition Minister
Deacon Laura Gorton	Associate Minister
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Minister for Worship & Music
Katie Belinson	Dir. of Outreach & Communications
Dagny Brandt	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance & Office Administrator
Chris Parkinson	Church Musician

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Our Lenten journey begins...

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14
7:00 pm

