

January 2020



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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

This year, thanks to our Spiritual Life Team, our Advent and Christmas devotional booklet lifts up the writings of the German WWII martyr, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. As we enter another new year, I'd like to share another of his writings with you.

On December 28, 1944, Bonhoeffer, just months before he was executed and two days before his mother's 70th birthday, received permission to write his mother from his prison cell. After a hurried note, he added a poem; it would be the last one he wrote. It later came to be titled "New Year."

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
and evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation,

for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.
And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

By gracious powers so faithfully protected,
so quietly, so wonderfully near,
I'll live each day in hope, with you beside me,
and go with you through every coming year.

As you enter this new year, may the witness of
Bonhoeffer and the comfort he found in God in
the midst of great uncertainty be a sign of hope
and blessing to you.

Blessed New Year, Pastor Twila Schock



IN THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FAMILY

Lorraine Schuh sends her gratitude to her CLC family for the cards on her 90th birthday . . . Thank you to Marie Day for the lovely hand painted basin and pitcher for use in our worship . . .



STAFF GRATITUDE

Dear Christ Lutheran family, St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians says, "I do not cease to give thanks

for you, as I remember you in my prayers." Likewise, we, on the Christ Lutheran staff, are daily grateful for the privilege to serve alongside you. At this time, we especially wish to thank you for the very thoughtful Christmas gifts. Your generosity is humbling and a reminder of the generosity with which you carry out all of your ministries. Please receive our gratitude! God's Peace, Michelle Nelson, Craig Carlson, Valerie Dusso, Vicar Katrina Steingraeber, Deacon Jennifer Fox, and Pastor Twila Schock

ADOPT-N-ANGEL

Each year we partner with LSSI to supply Christmas gifts for children in our community. Thank you to all who purchased gifts and made monetary donations to this year's *Adopt-N-Angel* program. Your generosity allowed us to support 141 children this year. Thank you!

SENIOR SAINTS

Will meet on **January 15 at 12:30 pm** at Stockholm Inn. Please call Anne Kutz, 815-554-6674, if you are able to attend.



THE HOLY FAMILY

Have you noticed the new figurines of the Holy Family in our worship space this Advent? These very lovely figurines were a gift from the memorials received in memory of Pastor Troy Hedrick. We thank the Hedrick family for sharing them with us in this beautiful way. We also thank Stephen and Rebecca Stegmair for

designing and building the accompanying stable.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING UPDATE

In celebration of CLC's 25th anniversary, our congregation has been designating over-and-above gifts, as well as our Thanksgiving offering, to St. Andrew's Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois. To date, gifts total roughly \$4800 plus an additional \$2500 from our Mission Endowment Fund in support of a student minister. We will continue to have opportunities to support this redeveloping ministry throughout the year. Thank you so much for your generosity!

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

We are deeply grateful for the hard work of our recently appointed Call Committee. To date, the committee has completed the significant task of preparing a detailed Ministry Site Profile. This document is currently in the hands of the Christ Lutheran Council. After the document is approved, it will be formally uploaded to the ELCA's mobility database. In early 2020, the Call Committee will confer with synod staff regarding the interview process and begin preparations to receive the profiles of potential candidates.

January 5, 2020

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 12, 2020

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2020

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 26 2020

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23



BE A LIFE SAVER!

On **Tuesday, January 7 from 1-7pm** we host our first Blood Drive of 2020. Donors, donations, and volunteers are needed. Sign up in the Gathering Space.

Upcoming 2020 Blood Drives:

March 3 April 28 June 23
August 18 October 13 December 8

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

Mark your calendars now! CLC's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 9**, immediately after the late service. In addition to celebrating CLC's many ministries in the past year, we will pass our 2020 budget and look to ministries in the future. Following the Annual Meeting, our high school youth will be sponsoring an Old Time Chili Cook-off to help raise funds for their summer service-learning trip. Don't miss this great day!

EPIPHANY ADULT FORUM SERIES

Just as the season of Epiphany recalls how Christ was revealed to the nations, our Global Mission Team will lead us in a study of culture and the global church on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Our schedule is as follows:

January 12: "Language and Culture"
(Leader: Ilona Meagher)

January 19: "Table Fellowship and Culture"
(Nancy Schuchard, Ilona Meagher)

January 26: "Art and Culture"
(Elaine Hoyt, Ilona Meagher)

February 2: "Etiquette, Customs and Culture"
(The Rev. Kevin Jacobson, ELCA Global Mission)



CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Join Christ in Literature on **Monday, January 6 at 2:00 pm**, in the Youth Room for an afternoon showing of **Breakthrough**, a faith-based film centered around the true story of a teenage boy who fell through thin ice on a neighborhood pond. His family, pastor, and friends must rely on their faith throughout his rescue and miraculous recovery. An uplifting and powerful story. Please note time change. Popcorn and bottled water provided.

GODLY PLAY

All kids aged 3-5th grade are invited to join us every Sunday for Godly Play! No registration required. Come explore the Christian story!



SECOND SUNDAY

Second Sunday is a youth group led by peers, other high schoolers, that meets the second Sunday of every month at Katie's Cup in Rockford from 7-8:30pm. **The next Second Sunday will be on**

January 12. There is meaningful worship, coffee, games, and more. Contact Vicar Katrina or Maggie Blackburn to find out more.

THE WELL

The Well is our regular high school youth group that meets the 4th Sunday of every month from 7-8:30pm at Christ Lutheran. Contact Maggie Blackburn for more info.



425 Riverside Road
Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-885-2522
www.makingChristknown.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

Syd Nolan	President
Karen Boeger	Vice President
Jeff Bieck	Treasurer
Sue Hunter	Secretary
Lee Blackburn	Council Member
Ken Erboe	Council Member
Al Francik	Council Member
Bev Frank	Council Member
Diane Peters	Council Member
Bruce Schuchard	Council Member
John Sommerfield	Council Member
David Swanson	Council Member

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Our Staff

Pr. Twila Schock	Senior Pastor
Vicar Katrina Steingraeber	Pastoral Intern
Valerie Dusso	O&C Admin.
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Dir -Worship/Music
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance Assistant

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Christmas Worship Schedule

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC. 24 5:00 & 10:00 PM—WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DEC. 29 9:30 AM—WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JAN. 5 9:30 AM—WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION