

February 2020



Faith.  
Death.  
Healing.  
P2



Annual  
Meeting &  
Chili-Cook-off  
P3



Ash Wednesday  
and Lenten  
Wednesdays  
P4



# Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,  
and Life in Christ

## LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK

**Learning to Walk in the Dark** is a favorite book of mine. Written by Barbara Brown Taylor, it's been on my mind as we journey through these days after the Epiphany. Epiphany: the season which lifts up a star that guided the magi; which lifts up Christ as light of the world; which hails light entering our darkness.

This month, I share with you three excerpts from **Learning to Walk in the Dark**, with the hope that you, too, might more fully appreciate both the darkness and the light.

\* \* \*

NIGHT AS BRIGHT AS DAY. *"Even when light fades and darkness falls—as it does every single day, in every single life—God does not turn the world over to some other deity...Here is the testimony of faith; darkness is not dark to God; the night is as bright as the day."*

SEEING CAN BLIND US. *"It makes me wonder how seeing has made me blind – by giving me cheap confidence that one quick glance at things can*

*tell me what they are, by fooling me into thinking I have a clear view of how things really are, of where the road leads, of who can see rightly and who cannot. I am not asking to become blind, but I am a believer. There is a light that shines in the darkness, which is only visible there."*

REMEMBERING HOW. *"Learning to walk in the dark is especially valuable in times like these – or maybe I should say remembering how to walk in the dark, since people of faith have deep pockets of wisdom about how to live long nights in the wilderness. We just forgot, most of us, once we got where we were going and the glory days began."*

\* \* \*

Friends in Christ, it is my prayer that – in these days after the Epiphany -- each of us might learn to welcome and rest in the darkness, knowing that Christ resides there with each of us and shines most brightly for all of us.

Peace, Pastor Twila Schock



## IN THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FAMILY

Lorraine Schuh wishes to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards she received . . . . Al Westman sends his gratitude for members who sent Christmas greetings . . . Al Francik writes, "I wish to thank all of our friends at CLC who sent Gail Christmas cards over the holiday season. Together we opened and read each one on Christmas Day and want you to know how much they were appreciated. God's peace to all of you."



## A CHEEP CHEEP HERE! AN OINK OINK THERE!

What a great response we had again to our annual Good Gifts drive. Thanks to you, nearly \$2000 was given to ELCA

World Hunger for sustainable development in redeveloping countries. You purchased chicks, mosquito nets, backpacks full of food, roosters, piglets, children's nutrition and vaccinations, Bibles, goats, trees, a fish farm, honeybees, gardening tools, cows, and a whole barnyard! Our Global Mission Team says thank you for "helping make Christ known."



## FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION

Recently, our Global Mission Team asked our missionary, Dr. Chandran Paul Martin, how we might be able to pray for our companion congregation in our Sunday prayers of the people. He wrote, "Tamil Nadu is reeling from an acute water crisis after many of its lakes, the main source of water, reached their lowest levels yet. This has also depleted our ground water levels. While people lining up with plastic pots for water has become a common sight, IT companies have taken various measures, including asking employees to work from home. Water is now a commodity and only citizens with resources are able to access water for domestic use. The poor continue to suffer without. Water is LIFE!"

## LENTEN WEDNESDAYS RETURN

Lenten Wednesdays offer an excellent way for you to deepen your prayer life, study the scriptures more diligently, and enjoy congregational fellowship. Our soup suppers, open to all, are a particularly effective way to grow in your relationship with others. While some teams or organizations take responsibility for hosting, donations of soup and bread are needed. Sign up begins on **February 9**.

Lenten Wednesday learning this year will be a unique study called **Wisdom for Everyday Life**. In this Bible study, we will explore familiar, yet overlooked, Bible books: Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Psalms, Job, and Song of Solomon. Together, we will grow in wisdom to take on the challenges confronting Christians today.

Lenten Wednesdays begin on March 4.

## FAITH. DEATH. HEALING.

On February 9, at 9:30 am, we begin a new adult forum series called, "Faith. Death. Healing."

### February 9: Healing Energy

Spiritual director and reiki practitioner, Marci Madary returns to CLC to consider the idea of God as the energy of the universe and energy within each person. She will describe various energy healing practices and their benefits for health and wholeness.

### February 16: Faith and Death

Funeral director, Steve Anderson from Anderson Funeral Home, will discuss how faith and healing can be found in the midst of death. He will share stories of death and healing from his own professional and personal experience.

### February 23: Healing Earth

Through the earth's plants, God has provided many venues for healing and health. Marci Madary returns to explore the ways essential oils made from herbs and flowers can be used to ease our stress, lift our spirits, and restore our sense of well-being.

### February 2, 2020

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

### February 9, 2020

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]  
Matthew 5:13-20

### February 16, 2020

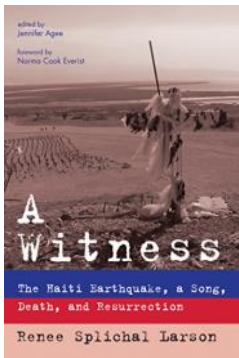
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

### February 23, 2020

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9



## CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Christ In Literature welcomes Bishop April Ullring Larson on **Sunday, April 19**. Bishop Larson, the first woman bishop of the ELCA, will preach at both services. A light lunch and book discussion led by Bishop Larson will follow. The book, "A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection," was written by Bishop

Larson's daughter-in-law, Renee Splichal Larson. The book is about Renee, her husband Ben and Ben's cousin, seminary students serving in Haiti in 2010. An earthquake changes their lives and Bishop Larson's forever.

All are invited to join in the day's activities. Pre-ordered books will be made available for \$10.00 each (a \$28.00 value). Make checks out to Christ Lutheran. The book is also available on Kindle for \$9.99. Sign up for the pre-ordered books is in the Gathering Space. Books will be distributed February 23. Any questions, contact Diane Larsen, 815-547-4899.

## WELCOME, PASTOR PETER MARTY!

Christ Lutheran's anniversary celebration continues on **Friday, March 6**, as we host the Rev. Dr. Peter Marty for his address, "Do You Want to Be Made Whole?" Dr. Marty, senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, is the editor and publisher of *The Christian Century* and author of *The Anatomy of Grace*. His address will be the capstone of a day-long observation of World Day of Prayer, coordinated by our Spiritual Life Team. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. with heavy appetizers. Entry is \$25. (Scholarships available; contact Pastor Twila.) Save the date!

## SENIOR SAINTS

Will meet on **February 19 at 12:30 pm** at the Hoffman House. Please call Anne Kutz, 815-544-6674, if you are able to attend.



## ANNUAL MEETING & CHILI COOK-OFF

Our 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!



## "THANK YOU" FROM OUR YOUTH

Our high school youth wish to thank the congregation for its support of their annual Advent breakfast. Thanks to you, \$920 was raised to support their upcoming service-learning trip to South Carolina in summer of 2020!

## 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 February 9**. There is meaningful worship, coffee, games, and more. Contact Vicar Katrina or Maggie Blackburn to find out more.



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**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    |
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Remember  
that  
you are  
dust,  
and to  
dust  
you  
shall  
return.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## February 26

Imposition of Ashes and Prayer - 7:00 am  
Worship with Imposition of Ashes - 7:00 pm

# LENTEN WEDNESDAYS WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(beginning March 4)

- 5:30 pm Soup Supper
- 6:15 pm Education
- 7:00 pm Worship

