



Christmas
Card Flurry
P2



No Parents
Allowed
P3



Advent and
Christmas
schedule
P4



Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

ADVENT INVITE: GET BACK ON THE SPIRITUAL WAGON!

November is a hard month. Beautiful for its bleakness, it is also grey and heavy with reminders of death all around. As a pastor, I can't count the number of times folks confess to me that they've lost dedication to their spiritual disciplines or forgotten how to pray – and often I hear these confessions in November.

If you are one who has “fallen off the spiritual wagon” – or even if you haven't, I invite you to join me this Advent in “getting back on the spiritual wagon” and renewing your spiritual discipline. Researchers at the University of London report that it takes a minimum of 22 days to form a new habit. I invite you to join me for the 22 days of Advent in setting aside a minimum of 15 minutes each day for prayer, meditation, or contemplation.

Our Spiritual Life Team is offering several tools this Advent to help you uncover a discipline which is right for you.

Waiting in Joyful Hope is a daily devotional reader.

Free copies are found in the gathering space.

Written by Genevieve Glen, a Benedictine sister, each day offers us scripture readings along with a reflection.

“*Evening Prayer (with optional indoor Labyrinth Walk)*” will be held on **December 5 at 6:30 pm** in the West Wing. Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual

centering, contemplation, and prayer. Entering the serpentine path of a labyrinth, you walk slowly while quieting your mind and focusing on a spiritual question or prayer.

“*Centering Prayer*” will be held on **December 12 at 6:30 pm** in the West Wing. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to experience God's presence within us. This method of prayer both deepens our relationship with God and develops a discipline to foster that relationship.

“*Lectio Divina*” will be held on **December 19 at 6:30 pm** in the West Wing. *Lectio Divina* (Latin for “Divine Reading”) is a traditional practice of scripture reading, meditation, and prayer which promotes communion with God and increases knowledge of God's word. It does not treat scripture as texts to be studied, but rather to experience them as the living word.

What rich tools these are to grow in faith, in your relationship with Christ, and in your relationship with one another. If you allow these 22 days to develop (or redevelop) your spiritual “habit,” you may just have given yourself the Christmas gift for a lifetime!

Peace, and Blessed Advent, Pastor Twila



IN THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FAMILY

We extend our sympathy to the loved ones of the following members: Rudy Makowski, who died on October 31; LeeAnn Everson, who died on November 13; and, Donna Boothe, who died on November 15. May light perpetual shine on them and God's compassionate arms draw their loved ones close in this time. . . . Gratitude from afar: "I want to thank you for the care package sent to me at college. The transition has been hard, but the support and love I receive from people – like you! – have been a great comfort. I thank God that my home congregation is and always has been so kind. Kayla Vittore"

CELEBRATION OF ADVENT BREAKFAST

Our youth are heading to Colorado! On **Sun., December 2**, Lee Blackburn will be making her famous Egg Nog French Toast between the first and second service for only a free will donation. There will be a short program to introduce you to the kids you're going to support! Come early and make sure you're hungry!

501: FAITH ODYSSEY

Thank you! Your recent generous commitment of pledges will help position Christ Lutheran for another strong year of ministry in 2019. Your faithful stewardship supports our commitments of carrying out important daily ministries, maintaining our beautiful facility, sharing 15% of our offerings with synodical and churchwide ministries, and compensating our staff. In 2019, your generosity will also make it possible for us to underwrite leadership development as we welcome Vicar Katrina Steingraeber.

SENIOR SAINTS

Will meet on **Wed., Dec. 19**, at 12:00 noon at Hoffman House. Please call Anne Kutz, 815-544-6674, if you are able to attend.

DO YOU OWN A THRIVENT PRODUCT?

If so, the deadline for designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is **March 31**. All Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to CLC BEFORE December 31 will support plans for CLC's 2020 Anniversary celebration; All Thrivent Choice Dollars designated on January 1 or later will support our ministry with MOSAIC. In the past, your Thrivent Choice Dollars have supported youth trips, the community garden, Godly Play, etc. Log in to Thrivent.com to make your designation today!

END OF YEAR GIFTING

Are you looking for a great place to make a year-end charitable contribution which positively impacts peoples' lives? Why not make a gift to one of Christ Lutheran's ministries? Make a gift that plants seeds for the future through our Mission Endowment Fund. Help sustain our facility with a contribution to our Building Fund. Ensure our day-to-day ministries are uninterrupted by supporting our General Fund. Contributions will be received through December 31.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD GIFTS?

Beginning Sun., **December 2**, the Global Mission Team hosts its annual Good Gifts drive. Find over 50 uniquely meaningful gift-giving options starting at just \$10. By providing support for church-wide ministries of the ELCA, each Good Gift helps to grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Good Gifts help you spread good cheer to loved ones AND sustain others across the globe. What a difference ELCA Good Gifts make!

CHRISTMAS CARD FLURRY RETURNS

During this Advent season we want to provide a special opportunity to remember those who are not able to be with us. We encourage you to send a note or card so that they know they are loved and included this Christmas. Address lists are available at worship.

ADVENT 1

December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

P2

ADVENT 2

December 9, 2018

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

ADVENT 3

December 16, 2018

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

ADVENT 4

December 23, 2018

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2018

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

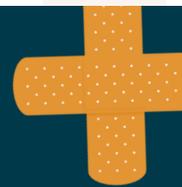
1 CH

Decem

1 Samue
Psc
Colossi
Luko

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- AED Training
- CCC Demo
- 911 Simulation
- Fire Extinguisher Demo
- Educational Resources
- Participation Gifts & Raffle Prize

**SENIOR SAINTS**

Will meet on **Wed., December 19**, at 12:00 noon at Hoffman House. Please call Anne Kutz, 815-544-6674, if you are able to attend.

MEN OF CHRIST

Will meet on **Tues., December 4 & 18** at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettia plants for display during Advent and Christmas. If you would like to sponsor any plants (\$12/each), please fill out the form available in the gathering space and return it to the church office by Sun., December 16.

CHRIST IN LITERATURE

The *Christ in Literature* small group will be showing "The Boys of '36" on **Monday, January 7**, at 3:00 pm. The one hour film tells the remarkable story from Daniel James Brown's book "The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics". The book club invites all to join them for the movie and popcorn. The PBS film features the University of Washington oar crew team, the obstacles they overcame to win the gold medal, and interviews with Daniel James Brown, historians, and surviving children of the team.

NO PARENTS ALLOWED

On **Sun., December 9** from 12:00-3:00 pm We are hosting a NO PARENTS ALLOWED at CLC. No Parents Allowed is a time for all parents of three-years-olds through fifth graders to drop off their kids and... do whatever they want! You can get some shopping done, go watch a movie, or just go home and take a nap. This is our way to give you a break because as a parent, you deserve it! To sign up, email Pastor Neal (neal@makingchristknown.org).

SUMMER TRIP TO COLORADO

Are you interested in white-water rafting, service projects, high ropes, mountain hikes, and sleeping under the stars? Then join us **July 19-29** for an amazing week at Sky Ranch Camp in Colorado. Cost for the trip is \$750 with a \$100 deposit. Registrations can be found in the gathering space. All youth (and their friends) entering 9th through graduating seniors are invited to join.

GODLY PLAY (PARENT ACTIVITY)

On **December 2** you are invited to join your son/daughter at Godly Play for an Advent Activity project. Godly Play begins at 9:30 am in the West Wing and ends at 10:15am. Hope to see you there!

ADVENT ACTIVITY PARTY

All middle school youth are invited to join us on **December 2** from 5-7 pm at Alpine Lutheran Church for the annual Advent Activity Party. There will be gaga ball, 9 square in the air, pizza, gingerbread house contest, and more! Contact Pastor Neal to sign up.

EDGE CONFIRMATION

On **December 2** EDGE Confirmation will be at Alpine Lutheran from 4-7 pm. On December 16, EDGE will be held at the usual time 12:30-3:00pm, also at Alpine Lutheran.

THE WELL

On **December 2**, youth who attend The Well will be Christmas shopping for those in need. We'll meet at CLC at 7:00 pm and be done at 8:30 pm. We'll wrap presents, drink hot chocolate, and eat Christmas cookies. Money is optional. Come and help a kid have a Merry Christmas!

SECOND SUNDAY

Come join us at Katie's Cup on **Dec. 9**, 7-8:30 pm. We have another night of Christmas mocha's, games, worship, and other revelry - all led by your peers. See you there!



Christ Lutheran

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
Sally Rode	Council Member
Ron Schoepfer	Council Member
Bruce Schuchard	Council Member
John Sommerfield	Council Member

TO:

+

Our Staff

Pr. Twila Schock	Senior Pastor
Pr. Neal Cannon	Associate Pastor
Valerie Dusso	O&C Admin.
Jennifer Fox	Dir -Worship/Music
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance Assistant

Copyright © 2018 Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL.
All rights reserved.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 521

Journey through Advent and Christmas

- ADVENT 1** DEC. 2 8:00 & 10:30 AM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION
- ADVENT 2** DEC. 9 8:00 & 10:30 AM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION
- ADVENT 3** DEC. 16 8:00 & 10:30 AM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION
WITH "LIGHT ETERNAL" CANTATA
- ADVENT 4** DEC. 23 8:00 & 10:30 AM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
DEC. 24 5:00 & 10:00 PM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DEC. 30 9:30 AM — WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION



Christ Lutheran
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY

425 Riverside Rd., Belvidere, IL
www.makingChristknown.org

**LIGHT
ETERNAL**
by John Michael Talbot



Join the us on
Sunday, December 16,
as the Spirit Singers
present this cantata
with word and
song at both the
8:00 and 10:30 am
worship services.