

March 2022

Volume 30 / Issue 3

Sharing Mission/Ministry/Life in Christ

# Christ ALIVE!

## HABITS

Can we be open to reflection and change for renewal's sake?

I thrive on change! When bored with a part of my life, I rearrange furniture to enjoy "new scenery." Some time ago, I rearranged the living room furniture. Using my loveseat as room divider, I moved it to the center of the floor. It looked lovely! But when the lights went out, I forgot it was there. In the wee hours of the night, when I wandered in the dark, "Crash!" Several bumped knees later, I remembered it was there.

Much of what we do in life is habit: We do things without our minds being in gear; this includes more than walking around the house.

Of course, doing things habitually makes life easier. Imagine how exhausted we'd be if we had to think carefully about every little thing we do! But, herein lies danger, as well. What habits do we throw into the category of things we don't need to think about?

During Lent, we have periods of silence both in our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship. Our liturgies call for "silence and self-examination." We find these short periods of confession to be helpful to be sure, but sometimes more symbolic than effective. Can 60 or so seconds do all they're called to do? In 60 seconds, we are to call to mind our sins, so that we can know that God has forgiven them. We find 60 seconds a bit short to reflect on a week or two of heavy living. All we can manage is to quickly remember something that has been bothering us. But, do we really get down into the things we don't think about? Our habits?

It's not easy to let God into our collection of habits. It's not easy to let something be questioned that we have been doing without thinking. I pray during this season of Lent, these 60-second periods are not only short periods of reflection and

confession, but reminders of the daily discipline required of us to reflect, repent and seek renewal.

One of our Christian "habits" is to pray the Lord's prayer. In Lent, we are especially called to focus on "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." If we believe God forgives our sins and heals the wounds they leave, then to take the time during Lent to let God dig deeper is to experience God's love and grace more deeply.

I leave you with a segment from a 1989 newspaper, a letter by two little children whose father was killed in a attempted robbery:

*"Dear Mr. Garner, we wish you wouldn't have shot our Daddy; it makes us sad and mad. We miss our dad a lot! Sometimes the pain is so bad we can hardly stand it, and we cry a lot. You had no right to shoot our Daddy; it was very wrong. We are only 6 and 7 years old, but at least we know that he loved us.*

*We hope you can stop doing drugs and selling drugs, because you still have that chance. We also hope that you have learned that crime doesn't pay. The only thing we are happy about is that Daddy doesn't have to suffer with these drugs anymore.*

*We want you to know that we did forgive you for what you did on the day it happened. Please remember we don't hate you; so you don't let this ruin the rest of your life.*

*Love, Jessica and Jason Fyten."*

May the patterns of our lives – and our Lenten journey – be marked by such love and grace.

*Pastor Twila*

LIVE LESS  
OUT OF  
HABIT &  
MORE OUT  
OF INTENT.

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Our Lenten journey begins

# Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2  
7:00 p.m.

ANGELO BREWING

ANGELO BREWING

## Lenten Wednesdays Return

Join us on Wednesdays in Lent as our soup suppers, learning, and worship return. Beginning on March 9, our Lenten Wednesday schedule is as follows:

**5:30 p.m. Soup Supper**

**6:15 p.m. Lenten Learning**

**7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer**

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

March 9: Spirit Ringers and Singers

March 16: Men of Christ

March 23: PATHWAYS, Education, and Service & Outreach Teams

March 30: Council

April 6: Youth and Young Adults, Stewardship, and Evangelism Teams

## Lenten

## Devotional Tools

This year our PATHWAYS Center is providing two tools to assist us in our Lenten journey:

"Grace Unbounded: Devotions for Lent" is a daily devotional booklet available in the CLC gathering space in both large and regular print.

A new prayer tool, the Lutheran Lenten Rosary will be available at 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. Join the PATHWAYS Team as members teach us about this prayer tool. All attendees will receive a prayer guide and set of beads.



## Blood Drive

Thank you to those who have signed up to donate blood, food, and time for our blood drive on March 1st.

*Mark your calendars!* Our next blood drive will be Tuesday, April 26.

## PATHWAYS Offerings

### USING THE ENNEAGRAM TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Mark your calendars now for this outstanding event. On Saturday, March 26, Marci Madary returns to give us an overview of the Enneagram, while using it as a tool to strengthen relationships at work, at home, and with family. Registration opens soon at [seekthepath.org](http://seekthepath.org) or in the Christ Lutheran gathering space.



### March 6, 2022

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### March 13, 2022

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

### March 20, 2022

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

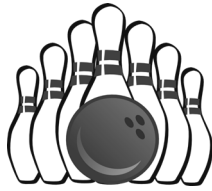
### March 27, 2022

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



## Young Adults Fellowship

**Bowling Night:** Join us on Friday, March 11 for some rousing games of bowling at The Cherry Bowl by the Cherryvale Mall. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. Pizza and pop will be provided. Please let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know if you plan to join us by Wednesday, March 9.



### Brunch and Bible Study:

Our second Brunch & Bible Study will be held Sunday, March 27. Join us as we share a meal and get into dialogue around a topic to be chosen in late February. Please let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know if you plan to attend by Wednesday, March 23.



## In the Christ Lutheran Family

*Words of gratitude from Steve Larsen:*

"To my Christ Lutheran family...Thanks so much for the basket of fruit and snacks! It means a lot that you reached out on the occasion of my retirement...CLC has become my spiritual home, and I treasure both my friends there and the blissful experience of worship. Thank you, all, for everything you do! In Christ, Steve"

Thank you to Marti Bein for presenting at and organizing the first PATHWAYS Taizé worship experience at Christ Lutheran!



## STAFF GATHERINGS...and a Rising Star!

Pastor Twila and Joe's lovely home provided the perfect setting February 22nd for a Christ Lutheran staff gathering – a postponed Epiphany party. General merriment included games (and prizes!), singing, small and large bites, storytelling and much laughter. Michelle Nelson was awarded the "rising star" award! What a blessing to be able to gather after a two-year hiatus...and this time with several new team members. Truly, a memorable and fun evening!



## Christ in Literature

### March 7

Join us as we discuss Martha Hall Kelly's book *The Lilac Girls*. It follows a New York socialite, a Polish teen, and a German doctor during and after WWII. A powerful story based on real-life events. Join us for conversation!

Looking ahead...

On April 4th we will discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

*Christ in Literature* meets the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



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Finance & Office Administrator  
Dir. of Outreach & Communications  
Church Musician  
Church Musician  
Church Musician

Join us at 9:30 Sunday mornings during the season of Lent to hear about the work various organizations are doing in the Rockford area. Each of these organizations received a grant from CLC's Mission Endowment Fund.

The forum schedule is as follows:

**March 6:** One Body Collaborative

**March 13:** Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

**March 20:** Mercy Health

**March 27:** Literacy Council

**April 3:** Mosaic

# ADULT FORUMS