

July 2021



Gratitude
P2



Cruising with
Men of Christ
P2



Blood Drive
Volunteer
Opportunities
P3



Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

MEET MICHELLE NELSON

Friends in Christ, what a pleasure to install Michelle Nelson recently as our new Office and Finance Administrator. I thought it would be fun to interview her to help you get better acquainted.

Pastor Twila: *How do you feel about taking on this new position?*

Michelle: I'm super excited! And, really nervous! I've got that "new job feeling" in which you fluctuate between "Hey! I've got this!" and "How will I ever learn all of this?"

PT: *I see pictures of three sons in your office. Tell us about them.*

Michelle: I'm very proud of my sons. There's Joshua who is 32, a Purdue Alum, and married to Emily, Derrick, who is 29, an Iowa Alum, and Trevor, age 25, a Michigan State Alum. See a trend?

PT: *You're not new to the church. Can you tell us about your experience in the church?*

Michelle: I became Lutheran after I met my husband. In 1985, I joined St. James Lutheran Church in Forreston. I volunteer there today as their financial secretary, and Sunday school treasurer.

PT: *Have you always worked in the church?*

Michelle: No. Prior to starting at CLC as Finance Assistant in 2010, I worked for 25 years in banking & finance. My career began at Citizens State Bank, in

Mount Morris and ended with AMCORE Financial, Rockford.

PT: *What do you like to do in your spare time?*

Michelle: I love to read, design with my Cricut, complete puzzles, and play games such as Catan, Bananagrams, and Ticket to Ride. My happy place is at the lake, watching the sunset, munching on s'mores prepared over a blazing bonfire, surrounded by family and friends.



PT: *What would you like to say to the members of Christ Lutheran?*

Michelle: I am deeply humbled to have this opportunity to serve, grow, and deepen my relationships with the members of CLC. Everyone has been extremely supportive of me. And, the many volunteers here all go the extra mile to serve the community of CLC. They are the best! Thank you!

Michelle, we give thanks to God that you have accepted this position, and we look forward to growth as both a staff and a congregation during your time with us. Welcome! --Pastor Twila Schock



IN THE CLC FAMILY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ed Lundt, who died this past month. May light eternal shine on him + Congratulations to Lora Salley, daughter of Larry and Jean Salley, who was ordained to the Office of Word and Service in June Congratulations to Katrina Steingraeber who recently received a call to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

"GREECE IS THE WORD"

In October of 2022, our congregation is hoping to take a journey in the footsteps of St. Paul as we visit Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Ephesus, and many of the other places associated with St. Paul's ministry. The deadline for registration and the \$200 deposit is August 1, 2021. If you are interested in learning more or registering, see Pastor Twila for a detailed itinerary or the registration link.



NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Christ Lutheran family, What a compassionate congregation you have been to us in the past weeks. We thank you for the many cards, notes, and

expressions of sympathy on the death of Joe's father, Roland Herreweyers, this past month. We also thank you for the many delicious meals, flowers, cards, texts, phone calls during this time of recovery from surgery. Your expressions of God's love and grace have been overwhelming. Peace and gratitude.

Joe Herreweyers and Pastor Twila



RALLY SUNDAY PRIZES NEEDED

After a year of pandemic, Rally Sunday is returning. September 12 is the day! Once again, our Stewardship Team will be gathering Time and Talent commitments for the coming year. Also, we will be having a drawing for prizes for anyone who completes their Time and Talent inventory. We are looking for folks to donate prizes for the event: gift cards, services, art work, quilts, crafts, jewelry . . . be creative! We want to start off our next program year with a bang!! Register your prize donation with either Pastor Twila or Nancy Bieck, chair of the Stewardship Team.

MEN OF CHRIST OUTING

Dinner Cruise and Fellowship: Ever been on the Maxon Manor Dinner Cruise in Oregon, Illinois? Men of Christ are sponsoring such an outing in August. See the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space for more info! Direct questions to Jeff Bieck or Jim Hanson.



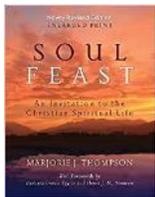
<u>July 4, 2021</u> Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13	<u>July 11, 2021</u> Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	<u>July 18, 2021</u> Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	<u>July 25, 2021</u> 2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21	<u>August 1, 2021</u> Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Psalm 78:23-29 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
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CONFIRMATION

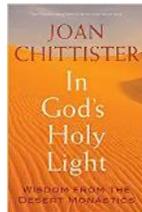
We are planning to have our next Confirmation module the week of July 12-16. We will begin our time together at 9:30 am in the West Wing. We'll spend our week learning about the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Any families with youth that are in fourth through ninth grade are invited to join us. Please direct any questions to Deacon Laura.

SUMMER SPRITUAL READING

Have these warm summer days given you an appetite for some good spiritual reading? Here are some of Pastor Twila's recent favorite picks:



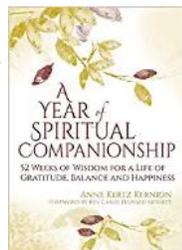
"Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life" by Marjorie Thompson offers tools to engage the spiritual life – both for our health and the health of the world.



"In God's Holy Light: Wisdom from the Desert Monastics" by Joan Chittister offers us a book of sayings from the Desert Mothers and Fathers and augments them with wisdom of her own.



"A Mystic Garden: Working with Soil, Attending to Soul" by Gunilla Norris affirms the garden as a place where we can experience a sense of our connection to the earth, our inner freedom, and the holy in everyday life.



"A Year of Spiritual Companionship" by Anne Kertz Kernion takes us on an exploration of everyday spirituality, combining the wisdom of spiritual thinkers, life lessons, and insights from social and neuroscience.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Calling all donors and volunteers! Our next blood drive will be July 20th. We are now returning to serving food! We are currently looking for volunteers to greet donors, grill hot dogs and hamburgers, serve food, and more. Look for the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space.



Use this QR code to register to donate and receive a Culvers "Pint for a Pint" coupon!

WHY DO PEOPLE GIVE BLOOD?

Because they like to help others – and because giving feels amazing. In busy, complicated times, giving blood is an easy, meaningful way to make a difference. In fact, this simple gift can enhance the lives of up to three people. Giving blood only takes about one relaxing hour. Remember, blood is a gift – straight from the heart. *Your heart.* Please share it today!

DID YOU KNOW?

- 4.5 million American lives are saved each year by blood transfusions.
- One out of seven hospital patients need blood.
- Bone marrow transplant patients can use up to 120 platelets and red blood cells from about 20 people.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

DEADLINE IS APPROACHING

The deadline for scholarship applications or agency grants is fast approaching. Application forms are available in the gathering space or at www.makingchristknown.org. All application materials are due by June 30 at 12:00 noon! Direct questions to Pastor Twila or Pat Mucha.



Christ Lutheran

425 Riverside Road
Belvidere, IL 61008

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

Al Francik	President
Lee Blackburn	Vice President
Diane Peters	Treasurer
Sue Hunter	Secretary
Ken Erboe	Council Member
Tari Flack	Council Member
Kathy Hucker	Council Member
Mike Meinert	Council Member
Syd Nolan	Council Member
Denise Rindels	Council Member
David Swanson	Council Member
Shari Warmoth	Council Member

+

Our Staff

Pr. Twila Schock	Senior Minister
Deacon Laura Gorton	Associate Minister
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Minister for Worship & Music
Michelle Nelson	Finance & Office Administrator
Dagny Brandt	Church Musician
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Chris Parkinson	Church Musician

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TUESDAY EVENING SUMMER WORSHIP: JUNE 8-SEPTEMBER 7

Each week we reflect on themes to grow in spiritual awareness and connect with Christ in Creation. In case of inclement weather, we will worship indoors.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monday, July 5
Office Closed

Monday, July 12
Confirmation summer module begins

Tuesday, July 20
Blood Drive
Loss and Grief Group (Cox)