

August 2021



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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

WHAT A YEAR!

It's hard to believe that it's been one year since the congregation of Christ Lutheran gathered together to vote on calling me as your associate minister. And what a year it has been! We were open for corporeal worship, then closed again, then reopened – this time with singing!

We have gathered for book studies, both in person and on Zoom. We've had Confirmation sessions which explored the Small Catechism and the New Testament. We practiced hand bell music together and brought back coffee hour (with donuts to make an appearance on August 1!) Small groups have gathered together for fellowship and fun.

I, too, have experienced a lot this past year. I moved into a new apartment, have slowly filled it with furniture and pictures from home. I've purchased four new plants and have taken joy in seeing most of them thrive. (I am one that normally kills any plant in my care – even those that are deemed “unable to be killed”!) I've explored the Rockford area and have slowly ticked off some items on the “must see/experience” list. I have gotten to some Rockford

summer staples, like Food Truck Tuesday at Nicholas Conservatory and City Market.

As I look ahead to the next year, I am excited to see Christ Lutheran back in the routine that more closely reflects the pre-pandemic “normal.” I am excited to see Godly Play in person, experience Adult Forums between services, see a real coffee hour complete with donuts. I look forward to visiting with more people and experiencing all of the activities that we were not able to do this past year – Pie Fest, Lenten soup suppers, the famous Pie Auction, the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering, and Christmas Eve services in-person.

As we look ahead to the start of another program year, let's find new ways to engage with the world around us. Perhaps you'll start attending a book study that you haven't done before, or join a new committee. Maybe you'll consider volunteering for a role that is new to you, such as one of the worship ministries on Sunday mornings. Let's look ahead to all the new things that are on the road before us and seek new ways to making Christ known!

-Deacon Laura Gorton



IN THE CLC FAMILY

Congratulations to Don Skadow and Kathy Ross who were married on July 3. May God richly bless your new life together. . . . We extend our sympathy to the family of Dick Winkelman, who died on July 16. May light perpetual shine on him. +

UPDATE!! QUILTING SUPPLIES DONATION

Earlier this spring, CLC collected fabric and quilting supplies for the Contact & Resource Center in Beirut, Lebanon. We received a lovely thank you note from the director, Agnes W. Dagher. Please enjoy this brief excerpt:

Dear Pastor Twila, Deacon Laura, and the Congregation of Christ Lutheran Church,

A few days ago, we received the FedEx shipment that they delivered to our doorstep. We want to thank you all for your gracious gift of quilting fabric. They were received with joy and thankfulness. I am sure they were also given with joy. Please pass our thanks to all...who donated the fabric – they are beautiful – and to each and every person who donated the scraps and cuttings. We will treasure those for they will form a joint communion between CRC and Christ Lutheran Church. Please give all our love. We can tell that all of you – pastor and congregation – have truly walked the two miles and more with us. Please give our thanks to all. God bless you all and keep you safe, one and all.

With much love. In Him,
Agnes W. Dagher
CRC President of the Board

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PAUL

Have you ever wondered what Ephesus is like? Or Corinth, Thessaloniki, Galatia? In October, 2022, CLC will be taking a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul. While the trip is filling up quickly, there are still a few seats available. Contact Pastor Twila for a copy of the itinerary or a link to register. Preliminary registration deadline is August 1, 2021 with a \$200 deposit.

RALLY SUNDAY RETURNS

Mark your calendars now! Rally Sunday, when we launch our new ministry program year, will be held on September 12. Learn more about the PATHWAYS Center for Spiritual Renewal. Make your Time and Talent commitments. Hear about the upcoming year's learning opportunities. Godly Play begins again!



RALLY SUNDAY PRIZES NEEDED

On Sunday, September 12, we will be dedicating Time and Talent Commitments for the 2021-22 ministry program year. Part of the fun is that, each every, every commitment is entered into a drawing for one of our Rally Sunday prizes. If you would like to donate a prize for the day, contact Pastor Twila. What makes a good prize? Gift cards, services (like yard work, raking). Arts and Crafts items. Sports tickets. Jewelry. Picture frames. Bath robes. You name it!!

CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR KATRINA!

Katrina Steingraeber, CLC's former vicar, will be ordained to the Office of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, August 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church (925 5th Avenue, Rockford). She has accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Rockford. May God richly bless your service with peace, courage, stamina, and joy!



| <u>August 1, 2021</u> | <u>August 8, 2021</u> | <u>August 15, 2021</u> | <u>August 22, 2021</u> | <u>August 29, 2021</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 | 1 Kings 19:4-8 | Proverbs 9:1-6 | Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 | Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 |
| Psalms 78:23-29 | Psalms 34:1-8 | Psalms 34:9-14 | Psalms 34:15-22 | Psalms 15 |
| Ephesians 4:1-16 | Ephesians 4:25—5:2 | Ephesians 5:15-20 | Ephesians 6:10-20 | James 1:17-27 |
| John 6:24-35 | John 6:35, 41-51 | John 6:51-58 | John 6:56-69 | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |

MUSIC ENSEMBLES RESUME

We are very grateful that the CLC music ensembles will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 8th**! Many of us have missed the opportunity to sing and play together due to the pandemic, and now we have the opportunity to once again share our God given musical gifts with our congregation!

The Spirit Ringers, under the direction of Chris Parkinson, will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:00p.m. Thanks to the ringers who were able to play this past spring! We are looking forward to playing our four octaves of bells with the whole group this fall! Note reading is a prerequisite for this instrumental group. Contact Jennifer or Chris if you have not rung before and are interested in joining.

Dagny Brandt will direct the Spirit Singers, with rehearsals being held on Wednesdays at 7:00p.m. Many of us have greatly missed choral singing over the past 16 months, and it will be such a pleasure to sing God's praises together again! The Spirit Singers welcomes singers sixth grade - adult.

Weekly rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 8th.

Spirit Ringers at 6:00 pm
Spirit Singers at 7:00 pm

Our music ministry will continue under the leadership of Deacon Jennifer Fox, with Craig, Chris, Dagny and Jennifer leading us on Sunday mornings. Contact us with any questions, and please prayerfully consider sharing your musical gifts this fall.

Jennifer Fox 815.275.1049
jennifer@makingchristknown.org

Christina Parkinson 815.222.0192
musicth1@gmail.com

Dagny Brandt 815.541.1063
dagnybrandt@yahoo.com



YOUTH GATHERING

All youth who are currently in 8th-12th grade are eligible to attend the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering. The Gathering will take place July 24-28, 2022. If you are interested in learning more, please plan to attend our information meeting on September 19. If you are unable to attend, but want more information, please contact Deacon Laura.



CLC BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the blood drive on July 20th! We served brats and hot dogs, and were able to collect enough blood to save 82 lives. Since we began hosting blood drives at CLC, we have saved the lives of 11,803 people! WOW!

CHRIST IN LITERATURE RETURNS

We will be meeting Monday, September 13th, at 3:00 PM in the West Wing. Our first selection of the new year will be "This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger. The discussion will be led by Deacon Laura. All are welcome. The only requirement is a love of reading and follow up discussions. We meet monthly September through May. Any questions contact Sally Rode at 815-243-5251. We will also be lining up our schedule of future books and presenters.

DON'T MISS THE DINNER CRUISE

The date and time have been set for our Maxson Manor Dinner Cruise. We are scheduled for Aug 13 at 6:30pm to 9:00 pm. Be sure to sign up for your menu selection (beef tips or chicken) on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.



Christ Lutheran

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Belvidere, IL 61008

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Al Francik | President |
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| Diane Peters | Treasurer |
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| Ken Erboe | Council Member |
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| Denise Rindels | Council Member |
| David Swanson | Council Member |
| Shari Warmoth | Council Member |

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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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Worship on the Labyrinth
Tuesday evenings @ 6:30 pm

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!

Friday, Aug 13
Maxson Manor Dinner Cruise

Saturday, Aug 21
Pastor Katrina Steingraeber's
Ordination
(Zion Lutheran Church)

Sunday, September 12
Rally Sunday