

January 2023

Christ  
ALIVE!

Vol. 31 / Issue 1

Sharing Mission, Ministry,  
and Life in Christ

# Where have you seen the light?

Epiphany – a season of celebrating light breaking through the darkness, light guiding the way through the dark night skies. As I drove into the office one morning, I started reflecting on how I have been led through the darkness by the light of others. The encouraging words of our guide as I struggled with my most physical challenge – carrying an 85-pound canoe through the toughest portage of our Boundary Waters trip. My sixth grade teacher, herself a breast cancer survivor, who cared for me in many ways as I struggled with the reality of my mom going through cancer treatments.

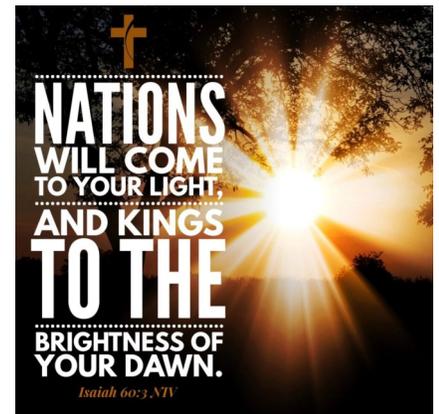
The volunteer Confirmation teachers who helped me feel comfortable as the new kid at church. My youth director, who provided a safe space for my friends and me to process all that life was throwing at us – parental illness and death, divorce, teen pregnancy, and more.

My family, willing to answer the phone anytime during my first few months here in Rockford, often in tears, dealing with the major life transitions while also coping with an anxiety disorder. A member of Christ Lutheran, who saw my anxiousness on my first Sunday here and gave me a big hug after worship, despite being in the midst of a ranging global pandemic.

I have seen the light breaking through the darkness in many places. Where have you seen the light breaking through? Where have you been the light for someone else?

A blessed Epiphany to you all!

*Deacon Laura*



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## Worship Ministries

are a wonderful way to participate in making Christ known through worship. Here are some ministries that could use a few more volunteers, along with a brief description:

- Acolyte: light the candles ahead of the start of worship; carry the cross in and out of worship. Can be done by someone of any age!
- Altar Prep: Prepare the worship space for services before Sunday morning; can be trained to do this role if you have not done it in the past.
- Sacristan: make sure everyone who is assigned to a role has arrived before worship; find substitutes as needed for roles that are not filled.
- Coffee hosts: We are in desperate need of more coffee hosts for the early service. At present, there are only four couples that fill this role for the early service, which makes scheduling challenging.

If you are feeling called to volunteer in any of these roles, please let Deacon Laura know and she can plug you in as well as provide any training that is required for that role.

## Happy New Year from the CLC staff!

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2. God's blessings to you all for a happy, healthy, and abundant new year!

*Happy New Year*  
2023

## Upcoming PATHWAYS Offerings

### *simple prayer to start the new year*

The PATHWAYS Center for Spiritual Renewal is kicking off its 2023 calendar with two thoughtful offerings this month, both designed to help us slow down, breathe, and reflect on the beauty of simplicity. Mark your calendar and join us.

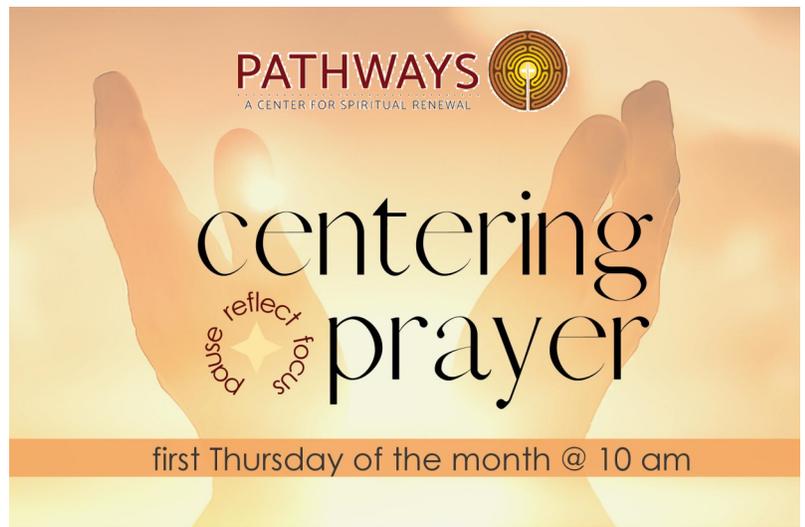
First, **Centering Prayer** continues on Thursday, January 5, at 10:00 am, offering scriptural foundations for a time of silent meditation and prayer.

Second, **Epiphany Taizé** begins at 4:30 pm on Saturday, January 7. Led by Deacon Marti Bein, this contemplative prayer service comes at just the right time to quiet our hearts and minds after the busy holiday season.

## Bonus Epiphany Offering

### *Then Sings My Soul: A Season of Song*

Beginning on Sunday, January 8, at 9:30 am, our adult forum series will be a study of hymns in the church. Have you ever noticed how some hymns give voice to your deepest grief while others have the capacity to lift your soul? Join Pastor Twila and Deacon Laura as they explore hymns of sorrow, joy, prayer, meditation, etc. Come, prepared to sing along (if you wish) or listen to some of the great hymns of the faith.



## Welcome Newcomers!

In the month of January, CLC is holding two events for newcomers: a newcomers orientation / luncheon, and the formal reception of new members. If you are new to Christ Lutheran and want to learn a bit more, the luncheon is for you. It's a chance to hear presentations, share a meal together, and ask your questions.

If you have decided that you would like to join Christ Lutheran, the formal reception of new members is for you.

The dates for both events will be set to accommodate as many as are interested. Let Pastor Twila or Craig Carlson know of your interest in either event!

## In the Christ Lutheran Family

Congratulations to Stevie Jane Fox, who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Christmas Eve. Welcome to God's family, Stevie! . . .

We express our condolences to the family of Elaine Winkelman who died this past month. May light perpetual shine on her. +

## Offering Envelopes Available

The 2023 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the CLC gathering space. If you do not find a box there for your household, let the office know and a box will be prepared for you. Picking them up in person saves CLC postage money!

### January 1, 2023

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

### January 8, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 15, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### January 22, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### January 29, 2023

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

## Service & Outreach

### Personal Care Kits

During the season of Epiphany, the Service & Outreach team will collect items to make personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Please donate:

- light-weight, dark colored bath size towels – not “too” fluffy (i.e. fluffy towels mean less items packed per box)
- bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping (no travel or sample sizes please)
- adult toothbrushes
- sturdy combs
- metal nail clippers



All items must be **new** – no used items please. Donations will be gathered January 1 - February 12 in the gathering space. See Deacon Laura with any questions.

### Hope for the Holidays Recap

**Hope for the Holidays** was a great success this holiday season! Due to the generosity in giving of this congregation, we were able to bring hope for the holidays to many people.

- \$1,675 was donated to Empower Boone (formerly Boone County Food Pantry). For every dollar donated, they can purchase \$8 worth of food!
- 43 pies were purchased from Costco and donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Banquet.
- 100 foster children received gifts through the LSSI Adopt-an-Angel program.
- 18 Mosaic clients received personalized gifts.

On behalf of the Service & Outreach committee, thank you for your continued dedication to provide hope for the holidays!

## Christ in Literature

Join us as we enjoy a screening of *Lilies of the Field*, starring Sidney Poitier. It is the story of a traveling handyman who becomes the answer to the prayers of nuns wishing to build a chapel in the desert. Our movie afternoon will take place on January 9 beginning at 3:00 pm. All are invited!

## Pastor's Pick of the Month *Check it out!*

*Bless My Growing: For Parents, Teachers, and Others Who Learn* by Gerhard Frost was given to me as a graduation gift from my high school pastor. I loved it then, and I continue to reach out for this book today – decades later. Karen Repka writes in her review, "This is a beautiful way to rediscover the feelings and delights of a child and sense the love of God in children, ordinary incidents, and in all people. It is a wonderful reminder to parents and teachers of the need to build mutual respect and encourage freedom in the learning environment."

## Confirmation Winter Module

Our time together begins Sunday, January 15. We'll gather from 12-3 pm weekly for six Sundays to learn about the Old Testament. Lunch will be included. Let Deacon Laura know if your youth plans to attend!

## Young Adults

Can we make it out?!? All young adults are invited to join us for a visit to 815 Escape. We will try to make it out of the escape room in time on January 27; time will be determined closer to the event. Please inform Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura by January 15 if you plan to attend, as this requires advanced booking.

## Acolyte Training

Training will take place before the start of the Lenten season (February 22). We invite all ages to participate. If interested, contact Deacon Laura for details.

## Gratitude Abounds

Dear CLC members, We, the CLC staff members, have been blessed by you not once, but twice! First and foremost, we have the wonderful privilege of serving alongside you in ministry. Indeed, what a gift it is to daily encounter such a vital and faith-filled community of service. But, also, we are deeply touched by the generosity of your recent Christmas gift to the staff. It serves as yet another symbol of the Spirit-filled congregation that is embodied by Christ Lutheran.

Please accept our most profound gratitude,  
the CLC Staff





# Christ Lutheran

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### *Our Council*

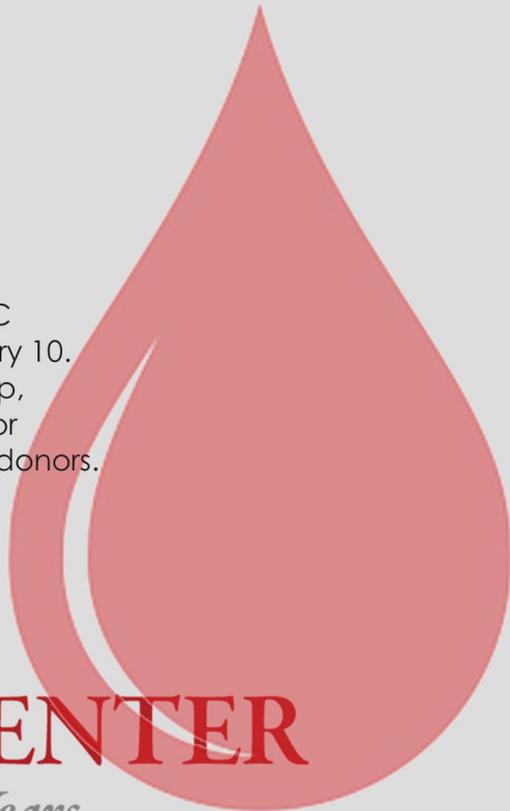
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Tari Flack	Council Member
Jim Hanson	Council Member
Syd Nolan	Council Member
Denise Rindels	Council Member
David Swanson	Council Member
Shari Warmoth	Council Member

### *Our Staff*

Pastor Twila Schock	Senior Minister
Deacon Laura Gorton	Associate Minister
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Minister for Worship & Music
Katie Belinson	Dir. of Outreach & Communications
Dagny Brandt	Church Musician
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance & Office Administrator
Chris Parkinson	Church Musician

## New Year, New Opportunities **Give Life**

Calling all donors and volunteers! The next CLC blood drive with RRVBC will be Tuesday, January 10. We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, hospitality, and clean up. We're also looking for donations of soup and treats, as well as blood donors. Sign up in the entryway today!



*Rock River Valley*  
**BLOOD CENTER**  
*Saving Lives for 70 Years*