

A Fresh Start

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over. November 27 is the start of another liturgical year. Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. For me, it is an opportunity for a fresh start. Just like New Years for most, the start of Advent is the time of year when I try a new spiritual practice. This year I am planning to journal more – to include my prayers and reflections on where I have seen God at work.

Perhaps you might want to start using a daily devotion. There are many excellent Advent devotional books available. This year, *PATHWAYS* will provide free devotional booklets about the prophets and promises. Here are some other devotional books that I have enjoyed:

- **Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas**
Readings from C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and more.
- **Keep Watch With Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers, ed. Claire Brown & Michael T. McRay**
This held my interest throughout the entire season. Each day includes a scripture text, reflection, prayer, and daily practice.
- **Pauses for Advent by Trevor Hudson**
Each day includes a word on which to focus, a scripture reading, short reflection, and daily practice. Excellent for journaling!
- **Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine**
There are four chapters which could be read at the beginning of each week. Amy-Jill Levine, a New Testament professor who is also a practicing Orthodox Jew, explores the story of the birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke.



Other spiritual practices may be praying daily, creating intentional time together as a family, lighting candles on an Advent wreath, building a creche scene, or giving to charities or other local organizations. Whatever spiritual practices you may consider starting, I pray that the season of Advent brings with it a renewed connection to God and your faith.

Deacon Laura

- In this issue**
- In the CLC Family P2
 - Financial Generosity P2
 - Adult Forum P2
 - Service & Outreach P3
 - Young Adults P3
 - Christ in Literature P3
 - Greece Pilgrimage P3
 - Pie Fest P4

In All Things, Give Thanks
Thanksgiving Worship

We invite you to join in giving thanks once again at this year's Thanksgiving Worship Service on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 pm. Our annual Pie Fest follows at 8:00 pm.

thankful

Hope for the Holidays

This holiday season, let us share what we can with those less fortunate. Our Service & Outreach team has teamed up with many agencies to offer support at this critical time of year. See page 3 for all the details on how you can help.

In the CLC Family

Thank you to all who made time in their schedules to assist with the curing of the new CLC outdoor stairs . . .

Thank you to those who assisted with the fall clean-up day . . .

Thank you to Sally Wonder who taught our First Communion students the spiritual practice of baking the bread used during worship . . .

Congratulations to Eden Winder who was received into God's family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 16 . . .

Our sympathy to the family of Dave Redenius who died on October 18. May light perpetual shine on him. + . . .

Our condolences to Deacon Jennifer Fox and her family on the death of Jane Wesner, Jennifer's mother. A committal service, with burial of ashes, was held on October 21 . . .

Thank you to all who signed up to provide food, volunteer time, or donate blood at our November 1st blood drive. Mark your calendars for our next blood drive on January 10.



It's Not Too Late

It's not too late to make your commitment for Financial Generosity to Christ Lutheran this fall. You may make your commitment in one of four ways:

- 1) the pledging station in the CLC Gathering Space
- 2) at the Annual Stewardship Banquet
- 3) online
- 4) by mail

Pledges will be dedicated at worship on Christ the King Sunday, November 20.



A Harvest of Learning Opportunities

Our Sunday adult forum time is rich with unique opportunities for learning. "Lies My Preacher Told Me," meeting until November 20, is an engaging study of the Old Testament which unearths truths which have been buried for centuries.

"Who Needs Christmas?" begins on November 27. This video series by Andy Stanley will explore why the improbability of the Christmas story is exactly what makes it believable.

All are welcome to participate — join us Sundays at 9:30 am.

"Check it Out!" — Pastor's Pick

This month, we encourage you to refresh your devotional life with "Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer." This popular book of the renowned Franciscan brother, Father Richard Rohr, challenges us to move beyond the comfort of a settled life toward an understanding of ourselves that is rooted in our connection to God. Only when we rest in God can we find the certainty and freedom to become all that we can be. Contemplation has its place at the heart of Christianity. This place allows us to experience how "everything belongs."

Check it out from the PATHWAYS library today!

An Avid Reader Among Us

Kelly Brady learned to read during the pandemic lockdowns. She has successfully read over 1,000 books — way to go Kelly! Make sure to congratulate her the next time you see her at church!



November 6, 2022

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 13, 2022

Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 20, 2022

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 27, 2022

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Service & Outreach

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Help provide hope to those in our midst through a few of our ministry partners. Please consider a monetary donation to the following giving opportunities:

- **Thanksgiving pies** for Rockford Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving banquet
- **Meal-in-a-Bag** for Empower Boone (Boone County Food Pantry)

Also, consider helping to provide some cheer for others this holiday season by grabbing a gift tag from our **Adopt-an-Angel tree** (LSSI), which goes to kids in foster care, or from our **Adopt-a-Home Mosaic House**, which goes towards Mosaic clients in the area. Both of these opportunities can be found in the gathering space.

Deadlines:

November 13 – Thanksgiving pies & Meal-in-a-Bag
December 4 – Adopt-an-Angel and Adopt-a-Home



Young Adults

Strike or a spare, we want you there!

All young adults (21-40 years) are invited to join in the fun at the Cherry Bowl on Friday, November 11 at 6 pm. CLC will provide pizza and pop. Let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know if you plan to attend by November 9.



Christ in Literature

Our next gathering is Monday, November 7 when we will discuss Natalie Warren's *Hudson Bay Bound: Two Women, One Dog, Two Thousand Miles to the Arctic*. It is the true story of best friends that decide, right after their college graduation, to canoe from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay—a grueling 2,000 mile journey made famous by Eric Severeid in his 1935 classic *Canoeing with the Cree*.

Join us December 5 as we discuss *The First Christmas: A Story of New Beginnings* by Stephen Mitchell.

Christ in Literature meets the first Monday of most months, beginning at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join us. Questions can be directed to Barb Weidman.

Freeing Jesus Book Study

Our fall book study continues in November. Join us on Wednesdays at 10 am (in person) or 4 pm (Zoom). Books are free and all are welcome! Contact Deacon Laura to get connected.

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

What an inspiring pilgrimage!

In early October, 23 friends and members of Christ Lutheran walked in the footsteps of St. Paul's second missionary journey to Greece and Turkey. They read St. Paul's speech to the Athenians at the Areopagus, affirmed their baptisms at the brook in Thessaloniki where St. Paul – according to tradition – baptized Lydia, the first European convert. They visited Crete, where St. Paul and Titus helped to organize a fledgling church and worshipped at the Bema in Corinth where St. Paul addressed the community. In Ephesus, they prayed one of St. Paul's prayers to the Ephesians, and in Berea they worshipped at the monument dedicated to St. Paul's visits. Thanks be to God for the early church and its missionaries!





Christ Lutheran

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PIE FEST, a treasured CLC tradition, follows our 7 pm Thanksgiving service. Dust off your favorite pie recipe and share with your church family. Pie sign-up will soon be found in the gathering space.

