

Sharing  
Mission,  
Ministry,  
& Life  
in Christ

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## The Benefit of Gratitude

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

To speak of gratitude in November feels almost cliché or automatic somehow. However, gratitude is actually a powerfully transformative tool that can be used anytime. Diana Butler Bass writes in her book, *Grateful*, that gratitude is more than an emotion, it's a disposition to be cultivated. So then practicing gratitude can be of benefit to us.

Our family went through a significant health crisis two summers ago. It was not easy to feel grateful during this difficult time, but we grew through it. Frequent hospital trips? Yes. Yet we had reliable cars. Uncertain outcomes? To be sure. Yet the health care professionals were caring and skilled. Unanticipated expenses? Yes. Yet with patience, God's provision took care of those as well. Perhaps there is something in every moment—no matter how difficult—for which thanks can be given.

CLC is in a significant period of uncertainty. It's an uncomfortable time. There is much work to do, unknown timeframes and financial considerations. Yet, James tells us to consider trial nothing but pure joy! *The testing of your faith produces endurance, and let endurance have its*

CONSIDER IT PURE  
MY BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS,  
WHENEVER YOU  
FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS,  
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT  
THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH  
PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.

JAMES 1:2-3

*joy*

*full effect that you might be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4).* CLC can give thanks for much! We remain true to our mission of *Making Christ Known*. Worship inspires and welcomes. Members show care and compassion for each other. Church ministries continue on with strength. We have had the opportunity to choose to deepen our trust in God, and I believe we are doing that.

I invite you to take on gratitude as a spiritual practice this month. Read on in the newsletter for ways to do that. God bless you in your faith journey!

In Christ's Joy!  
Jenny Campbell, CLC President

## Stewardship Sunday

You are invited to Christ Lutheran's Stewardship Sunday on November 10. We will worship together at one service at 10 am, followed by a potluck and chili cookoff. There will be prizes for the best chilis, fun fellowship, and a celebration of all that we have done at Christ Lutheran this past year. Sign up in the gathering space! *Pledges will be dedicated on Commitment Sunday, November 24.*

NOV 10: one service @ 10 AM



**PATHWAYS**  
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

# World Drumming Workshop

**9:30-11:30 AM | NOV 9**

**\$15 per person;  
\$25 per family**

## The Beat Goes On...

Don't miss this immersive workshop examining the imagery, symbolism, cultures and traditions of African and Native American drumming. Participants will choose symbols to decorate/build their own personal hand drum to take home. (Supplies provided but please bring a hammer.) \$15 per person; \$25 per family. Register at [seekthepath.org](http://seekthepath.org) or church by November 3. A unique learning experience for all ages.

## All Saints

A special commemoration will be observed on November 3, All Saints Sunday, when we honor our loved ones who have gained their heavenly reward. A bulletin insert will remember all those who have entered the church triumphant, and those who have passed since last All Saints Sunday will have their names read aloud.

## Poinsettias

Help us decorate for the coming Advent and Christmas seasons. We will receive orders for poinsettia plants from November 3-24. Cost is \$12 per plant. Forms will be available in the gathering space.

## Advent Devotional

The season of Advent is the start of a new liturgical calendar. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Make sure to pick up your Advent devotional before the start of the season! More information on the theme will be featured in December's newsletter.

## Practicing Gratitude submitted by Jenny Campbell

*If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present — gratefully.*

— Maya Angelou

Choose something from the list below and try it during November. If it works for you, maybe you will find that you would like to continue it beyond this month! Remember that gratitude is a choice that takes time to incorporate, so whatever you decide to do, plan to do it at regular times. Diana Butler Bass says that gratitude compounds like interest, so let's start investing today!

- Read a book on gratitude: *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass, *Spiritual Practices for the Brain* by Anne Kertz Kernion, or others
- Keep a gratitude journal
- Give thanks daily for five things
- Seek out prayers of gratitude from Psalms or a devotional
- Use your five senses to appreciate the miracle of being alive – savor your food, breathe in fresh air, slow down and look around you
- Set up visual reminders to be grateful – pictures of loved ones, gratitude quotes
- Smile, look people in the eye, and say thank you – to any and all who assist you in any way
- Create a gratitude jar – write notes of gratitude and read them during family time
- Take time to send thank you notes, emails, and texts to people
- In awkward or difficult moments, consider how to reframe it and find something for which you can give thanks
- Give thanks before meals, and/or at the start or end of the day

(Many of these ideas are from *Spiritual Practices for the Brain*.)

### **November 3**

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 24  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
John 11:32-44

### **November 10**

1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### **November 17**

Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8

### **November 24**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

# Service and Outreach

Hope for the Holidays returns! The Service and Outreach committee is organizing four separate ways you can help bring hope for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons in our area. Donate money for pies for Rockford Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving banquet and Empower Boone's Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag. Grab a tag from our Angel Tree and bring back a wrapped gift for a child in foster care with LSSI. We are also taking monetary donations for our friends at Mosaic, which will go towards providing all Mosaic clients with a Christmas stocking. Thank you for helping to spread cheer this holiday season.



**HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**DEADLINES**

**NOV 10** — donations for Thanksgiving pies & Meal-in-a-Bag

**DEC 4** — Angel Tree gifts & Christmas stocking donations

# Education

**Godly Play** will gather for fun and learning on November 3 and 24. What stories will Miss Sally have for us this month?! Can't wait to see you!

Check out the offerings for **Adult Forum** during the month of November:

- NOV 3:** Pastor Jen Beamsley (Synod relator to our call process) will be with us and take some time to speak about our call process. She will be joined by Pastor Janet Hunt. We hope you will join us!
- NOV 10:** no Adult Forum; join us for our chili cookoff and fellowship following worship at 10 am
- NOV 17:** Hymns of Festival Sundays—sing and learn the stories behind the festivals of Reformation and the Christmas season
- NOV 24:** Hymns of Festival Sundays—sing and learn the stories behind the festivals of Pentecost, Trinity and Easter

# Christ in Literature

Written after working incognito for seven weeks, Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* exposed the corruption and harsh conditions in the meatpacking plants of the Chicago stockyards. Join us as we discuss the novel that helped usher in the establishment of the FDA on Monday, November 4, beginning at 3 pm.

Looking ahead, we will discuss Kate H. Moore's *The Woman They Could Not Silence* on December 2.

# Financial Update *through September 30, 2024*

Year-to-date Actual (income):	\$ 351,342
Year-to-date Budget:	\$ 315,033
<b>Actual vs. Budget</b>	<b>+\$ 36,309</b>
Year-to-date Budget Expenses:	\$ 341,298
Year-to-date Actual Expenses:	\$ 330,811
Amount under Budget:	+\$ 10,487
<b>Net YTD Surplus</b>	<b>+\$ 46,496</b>

Please note that \$33,840 of this surplus is the result of reducing our Synod Mission Support from 15% to 6%. The balance of the surplus, \$12,656, is the result of some of our members already making their total pledge and our staff's frugal efforts in controlling expenses.

Please be assured that if we end the year with a Net Surplus, Council will make every effort to make up part, if not all, of the Synod Mission Support shortfall. *Submitted by Jeff Bieck, Treasurer*



# Christ Lutheran

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[makingChristknown.org](http://makingChristknown.org)

 [facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere](https://facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere)

Also on Facebook, search:

*Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal*

† **Worship:** Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 am  
*except for November 10 @ 10 am only*

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Our Council

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Jenny Campbell     | President      |
| Howard Yakey       | Vice President |
| Shirley Collins    | Secretary      |
| Jeff Bieck         | Treasurer      |
| Jenny Breckenridge | Council Member |
| Elizabeth Brinkley | Council Member |
| John Herring       | Council Member |
| Peter Hightower    | Council Member |
| Lori Murphy        | Council Member |
| Denise Rindels     | Council Member |
| Don Skadow         | Council Member |
| Dave Swanson       | Council Member |

### Our Staff

- |                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Deacon Laura Gorton | Acting Interim Minister           |
| Deacon Jennifer Fox | Minister for Worship & Music      |
| Katie Belinson      | Dir. of Outreach & Communications |
| Dagny Brandt        | Church Musician                   |
| Michelle Nelson     | Finance & Office Administrator    |
| Chris Parkinson     | Church Musician                   |



We'll give thanks for the abundance of God's blessings during 7 pm worship, and then celebrate at Pie Fest following the service. Share your favorite pie recipe with your church family. Sign up in the gathering space.

# WORSHIP & PIE FEST

## WEDNESDAY NOV 27 7PM

