

December 2020



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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

PASTOR'S PICKS

Since the pandemic began, I've found – due to many cancelled social outings – more time for a favorite pastime, reading. This month, I thought I'd share with you some of the books I've enjoyed. Not all are theological!

I Can Do No Other by Anna Madsen. While Martin Luther's Reformation was focused on justification by grace, Madsen explores what the Reformation might look like if it happened today. A great read for someone who wants to study theology that is easy to digest!

Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor describes how, by teaching "world religions" at Piedmont College, her faith (as well as that of her students) was challenged and deepened.

The Bregdan Chronicles by Ginny Dye is a multi-volume series of historical fiction encompassing the Civil War and Reconstruction. Do you enjoy watching "Downton Abbey," or "The Crown?" This series might be for you! This 17-book series offers you enough for an entire pandemic.

To Bless the Space Between Us by John O'Donohue is a lovely book of blessings. Among its many blessings, you will find one for a Friend on the Arrival

of Illness, For One Who is Exhausted, For Someone Who Did You Wrong... A lovely book for yourself or to give as a gift.

How Animals Talk by William Long. Originally published in 1919, this book is for anyone who enjoys the silent communication of their pets. From crow talk to herd communication, Long observes that animals are more intelligent, moral, and emotional than originally thought.

Send My Roots Rain by Kim Langley. Have you lost a job, a loved one, a way of life? This book is composed of sixty poems and brief reflections for those who have walked the path of grief.

Spiritual Practices for the Brain by Anne Kertz Kernion. Did you know that paying attention, breathing deeply, meditation, nurturing gratitude, helping others, and enjoying nature helps both your body and your spirit? Stay tuned! I will be leading a study of this book in early 2021!

I hope that one of these books has sparked your interest. I also hope you'll share your reading list with me. Meanwhile, happy reading, and God hold you close until we can gather face-to-face again, Pastor Twila



IN THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FAMILY

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Jim Hanson, Sr., who died on November 5. May light perpetual shine on him + Congratulations to Lora Salley, daughter of Larry and Jean Salley, who recently graduated from the Lutheran

School of Theology in Chicago and was featured in an LSTC publication. Read about Lora at:

<https://www.lstc.edu/story/lora-salleys-internships-prepared-her-for-word-and-service-chaplaincy>



THANKSGIVING AND PIE FEST (Pandemic Style)

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to gather in person for the traditional Thanksgiving Eve worship and pie fest. Instead, look forward to our Thanksgiving worship to be posted on Thanksgiving Eve. And what about the pie? Look forward to recipes from some of Christ Lutheran's pie bakers immediately following the worship service.

END OF YEAR GIVING

As the end of the year approaches, CLC has much to be grateful for as our financial position remains strong. Thank you so much for your commitment to CLC's ministries! The end of the year is also the time to either consider an end-of-year gift or to review your stewardship commitment to ensure you are current with your pledge. If you have any questions about either your pledge or possible end-of-year gifting opportunities, do not hesitate to call the church office.

CHRISTMAS CARD FLURRY RETURNS

During this Advent season we want to provide a special opportunity to remember those who are not able to be with us. We encourage you to send a note or card so that they know they are loved and included this Christmas.



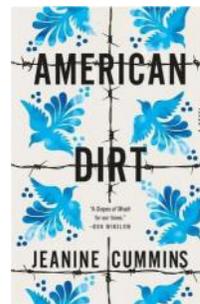
STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

Our Council President, Al Francik, has invited any who wish to make a contribution to the Staff Christmas Gift to do so by December 15. Contributions may be sent in (labelled "staff gift") or dropped off in the gift box at the church.

JOIN US FOR ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP

A continuation of November's "Where is God?" series, we will be offering mid-week Advent Taize' services in the month of December. Our schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 2, 5:30 pm—Finding Healing in Separation
- Dec. 9, 5:30 pm—Finding Hope in Despair
- Dec. 16, 5:30 pm—Finding Meaning in Emptiness



CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Will be meeting at Christ Lutheran on **Mon, December 7** at 3 pm. Our book selection *American Dirt* is a 2020 novel by American author Jeanine Cummins, about the ordeal of a Mexican woman who had to leave behind her life and escape as an undocumented immigrant to the United States with her son All are welcome!

December 6, 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2020

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2020

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25, 2020

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

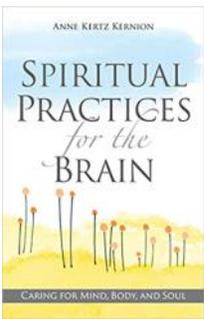
FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, VICAR KATRINA!

Bundle up, and join us for an outdoor "Farewell and Thank You" for Vicar Katrina on **Sunday, December 20 from 1 to 3 pm** on the CLC Labyrinth. This will be a masked, socially-distanced procession for each of us to express our appreciation to Vicar Katrina for two years of service. Hot beverages will be served. Warm yourself by the fire pit! Enjoy the Christmas music. Bring a card for the "card shower basket." A brief program (and presentation of the congregational gift) will be held at 2:00 pm.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Would you like to help deliver Christmas cheer to some of our homebound or isolated members? We are looking for 5 or 6 volunteers to deliver Christmas poinsettias during the week of December 21. If you can help, contact Pastor Twila at twila@makingchristknown.org



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR THE BRAIN

Scientists are discovering what the saints already knew: spiritual practices can help the body, too! If the pandemic has got you down, join Pastor Twila for a 6-week study of the uplifting book "Spiritual Practices for the Brain" by Anne Kertz Kernion. The class will be held (either via Zoom or in groups smaller than 10 persons) in January on a date to be determined by class member availability. To register your interest and to reserve your free copy of the book, contact Pastor Twila.

December 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



Do you shop Amazon? Support Christ Lutheran's ministries by shopping through Amazon Smile. The charity link for Christ Lutheran Church is - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3025736>



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Hope, for many, may have gone missing during these challenging times of the pandemic. Christ Lutheran will continue to provide hope for those in our midst through our ministry partners. Please consider providing a monetary donation for the following giving opportunities:

- **Adopt-An-Angel** through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- **Adopt-A-Home** for those who live at MOSAIC

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it in, along with your check, to Christ Lutheran Church. **DEADLINE: November 29.** Thank you to those who have already sent in donations for HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive is Tues., December 8 from 2-7pm. Appointments are required, please call 15-885-2522 .

WORSHIP AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

As of October 11, Christ Lutheran returned to offering on-line worship only. This comes as a result of increasingly disquieting COVID metrics and the resulting new restrictions which have been placed on Region 1. We assure you that, once the restrictions have been lifted, we will return to in-person worship. Our Alternate Virtual worship is emailed Saturday evening.



Christ Lutheran

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

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Lee Blackburn	Vice President
Diane Peters	Treasurer
Sue Hunter	Secretary
Walt Boothe	Council Member
Ken Erboe	Council Member
Tari Flack	Council Member
Bev Frank	Council Member
Mike Meinert	Council Member
Bruce Schuchard	Council Member
John Sommerfield	Council Member
David Swanson	Council Member

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Our Staff

Pr. Twila Schock	Senior Minister
Deacon Laura Gorton	Associate Minister
Vicar Katrina Steingraeber	Pastoral Intern
Valerie Dusso	Office & Com. Administrator
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Minister for Worship & Music
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance Assistant

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WHERE IS GOD?

In these tumultuous times, the question "Where is God?" flows easily from our lips. This series is meant to help restore meaning, healing, peace, hope, and joy in this time.

BLUE ADVENT VESPERS | 5:30 pm

December 2 - Finding Healing in Separation

December 9 - Finding Hope in Despair

December 16 - Finding Meaning in Emptiness



 Christ Lutheran
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY

Vespers will be sent out via email
and posted online at makingChristknown.org.

PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL 