

Sharing
Mission,
Ministry,
& Life
in Christ

Advent Endings and Beginnings

This Advent, we will use materials from *A Sanctified Art* around the theme of "Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons." Read about the theme from the creators of the materials:

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

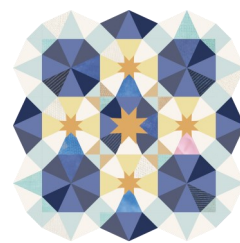
Our weekly words are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. We invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead. As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again.

Throughout the season of Advent, our online worship will mirror the theme. We will have a few activities for you to engage in virtually:

- Pathways' "Wayposts" will feature poems and liturgical artwork from *Sanctified Art*.
- Daily Facebook posts will feature a picture of the day inspired by the day's assigned word. We encourage you to take a picture that shows the word and share it in a comment on our posts.

We will also have an activity designed for in-person worship engagement:

- Each week will have a different quilt square pattern as an insert in the bulletin. You will be invited to take the quilt square home and color it, bringing it back the following week to be displayed with other quilt squares. Watch as the colorful quilt



WORDS
FOR THE **BEGINNING**

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Christ Lutheran
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY



Deacon Laura Deacon Jennifer

Christmas Eve Worship

We will celebrate Holy Communion with a Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service on Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ through music and the word.

Worship Time Change

Beginning on Sunday, December 29 (2024), we will offer one worship service on Sunday mornings moving forward. Worship will begin at 9:00 am with Adult Forum and Godly Play to follow from 10:30 - 11:15 am.

There are many positive impacts for our congregation with this change:

- sense of community by worshipping together
- more energy with a full congregation
- congregational singing improves confidence and feels festive/strong
- fellowship increases
- better use of ministry volunteers and increases ease in scheduling
- Spirit Singers and Ringers better able to provide music when not divided between services
- cost saving measure with less pastoral/musician coverage needed
- less pressure to end Godly Play/Adult Forum at exact time to prepare for worship

Summer worship has always been strong and well received as one service. We will continue this sense of community as we worship together as one.

Please speak to Deacons Laura or Jennifer if you have any questions.

Deacon Laura & Deacon Jennifer

Advent

Join us each week as we begin the services with the traditional lighting of the Advent Candle and journey towards Christmas and the celebration of Epiphany. All services will include Holy Communion.

8:00 and 10:30 am worship services:

Advent 1: December 1

Advent 2: December 8

Advent 3: December 15 (Cantata)

Advent 4: December 22

Other worship services:

Christmas Eve:

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm

9:00 worship service:

Christmas 1: December 29

- A Celebration of Lessons & Carols

Epiphany: January 5

- A Celebration of Epiphany



Poinsettias

Poinsettia plant orders are being received through December 8. Cost is \$12 per plant. Forms are available in the gathering space.



PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Longest Night/Blue Christmas December 21

For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. Sometimes we need a place amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. On the day with the longest night, join PATHWAYS for a worship service that acknowledges the grief and loss you may feel, offers prayers for the world and one another, and helps us draw near to God. Reflective music and spiritual practices that help us center ourselves will be part of the service. All are welcome at 4:30 pm for this time of hope and healing.

Healing Service December 29

Join us for a brief time of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing on Sunday, December 29 as we seek to find wholeness in Christ. This service will be held at 10 am in the choir loft area of the sanctuary.

Hospitality Thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated cookies for our Election Day refreshments. We received so many favorable comments from voters. *Your generosity is appreciated!*

December 1

Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 1:26-38

December 8

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Ruth 1

December 15

Isaiah 9:2a, 6; 7:14
John 1:14
Luke 2:6-16, 20

December 22

Luke 1:46-55
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
Luke 2:1-20

Service and Outreach

Hope for the Holidays opportunities continue. You can donate towards Christmas stockings for Mosaic clients. Donations will be accepted through December 4. And don't forget to grab a tag off of our Angel Tree to provide a gift for a foster child. Please bring all wrapped gifts to CLC by Wednesday, December 4. (Please do not include any additional cards or letters to the child with the gift.) Thank you for spreading holiday cheer!



Blood Drive

CLC hosts its next blood drive on Tuesday, December 17. Sign up to volunteer your time, give a donation of blood, or provide cookies and/or soup for those volunteering and donating blood. Appointments are available from 2 – 6 pm. See the bulletin board in the gathering space. You may also [make an appointment](#)

Education

Adult Forum: During the season of Advent, we will look at the stories of those who took big risks for their faith. Join us at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

Godly Play: We will meet on December 1 and December 15 for learning, imaginative play and FUN. December is always an extra special month. Hope to see all of our friends there!

In the CLC Family

Christ Lutheran received Kendra Hall as a new member on November 3. We are so glad to welcome her back to our church family. Blessings!



Financial Update

through October 31, 2024

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 386,039
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 415,070
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 360,406
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 54,664

Please note this surplus is the result of members meeting or exceeding their pledges as well as monthly expenses being under budget. In addition, our Synod Mission Support is at 6% rather than our historic 15%.

Pledges for 2025: There's still time to make a pledge if you haven't already. Thank you for your continued support of Christ Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Bieck, Treasurer

End of Year Gifting

Looking for a great place to make a year-end charitable gift? Ensure the day-to-day ministries at CLC are uninterrupted with support for the General Fund. Help us keep our space beautiful and functioning by contributing to the Building Fund. Gifts received through December 31.

Men of Christ Christmas Party

The annual Men of Christ Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 14. Festivities begin at 6 pm at the American Legion Post in Belvidere (900 W. Chrysler Drive). The main course and

hot German Gluhwein beverage will be provided; cash bar also available. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. A free will offering will be received to offset party expenses, with any remaining funds going to ELCA World Hunger. Sign ups requested by December 8. Join in the merriment!



Christ in Literature

Elizabeth Packard was not willing to be silenced. Her ceaseless quest for justice challenged the medical science of her day and led to a giant leap forward in human rights. Join us on Monday, December 3 as we explore Kate Moore's *The Woman They Could Not Silence*. The discussion begins at 3 pm.



Christ Lutheran

425 Riverside Road / Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-885-2522

makingChristknown.org

facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere

Also on Facebook, search:

Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 am
beginning December 29 @ 9 am only

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Deacon Laura Gorton

Deacon Jennifer Fox

Katie Belinson

Dagny Brandt

Michelle Nelson

Chris Parkinson

Acting Interim Minister

Minister for Worship & Music

Dir. of Outreach & Communications

Church Musician

Finance & Office Administrator

Church Musician

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As we prepare our hearts and minds during the season of Advent, the feelings of longing, anticipation, hope and celebration are evoked. We invite you to join the Spirit Singers at worship on Sunday, December 15 for *THE PROMISES OF ISAIAH — An Advent Cantata*. Through song and the words of Isaiah, we will remember God's promises and celebrate that Christ is our light and source of everlasting love.

December 15
8:00 & 10:30 am

For
to us a
CHILD
IS BORN

to us a son is given;
and the government
will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of
Peace

Isaiah 9:6

