

From Generation to Generation...

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year, we will step back from the Revised Common Lectionary and instead use materials from *A Sanctified Art*. These materials will recall the storyline of events leading up to and after the birth of Jesus. We will hear new scriptures as well as old familiar ones around the birth of Jesus, honing in on all those involved in the story.

This Advent, we are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice and what can we learn from them?

The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. The theme of "From Generation to Generation..." is also a call to action. What are we being called to bring forth? What is our generation's task in the good news that transcends time and space?



Genealogy of Christ by
Lauren Wright Pittman

We will be reminded of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. We'll recall stories of those who came before us and ask ourselves: What have our ancestors passed on for us to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seed are you planting for the future?

Join us as we look at this familiar story with new eyes and look at our own family stories with a fresh perspective.

Deacon Lauren

Holiday Worship

Christmas Eve December 24, 4 pm
Candlelight service with Holy Communion.
Come a little early to get your seat and
hear special music.

Christmas Carols & Readings December 28, 9 am
Join us as we hear our favorite readings, sing some favorite
carols, and share in Holy Communion.

Epiphany January 4, 9 am
Celebrate the visit of the magi, and then stay for the annual chalking
of the sanctuary door following worship.



ISAIAH 9:6

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Christ Lutheran
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY

Advent Devotions

This year we are offering two different styles of Advent devotion materials. *Humble and Holy* booklets from Augsburg Fortress provide daily devotions from the first Sunday in Advent (Nov 30) through Epiphany (Jan 6) and include evocative images, reflections, and prayers.

We are also providing an Advent calendar and build-your-own-nativity activity from ELCA World Hunger. Each day starts with coloring and cutting out a part of the nativity scene, building throughout the season. Alongside this craft, a calendar includes opportunities to support the church's national and global work to end poverty, plus scripture, prayers and hymns for seasonal reflection. A great activity for both kids and adults!



Pick up your copy of *Humble and Holy* and a packet of materials from *A Stable Lamp is Lighted: ELCA World Hunger* beginning Wed, November 26.

In the CLC Family

Our condolences to the family of Adele Jedynak who died October 27. May light perpetual shine on her. +

Advent Coffee Hour

In this holiday season, the Evangelism Team invites you to its Advent Coffee Hour following worship on December 7. Treat yourself to Christmas cookies along with hot and cold cider. Luminaria kits will be available for each family to take home; one per household or one per child, whichever is greater. Feel free to color/decorate your bag and then send us a picture. Let's celebrate the coming of our Savior!



Poinsettias

Poinsettia plant orders are being received through December 7. \$12 ea. Those ordering plants may take theirs home following worship on January 4.

Financial Update through 10/31/25

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 388,900
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 398,534
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 365,705
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 32,829

Thank you for your generous and continuous support of Making Christ Known.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer

Office Closures The office will be closed Dec 24-26 in observation of the Christmas holiday.



PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Longest Night

December 21, 4:00 pm

The joy of the holiday season can feel elusive to those who have experienced loss. Amidst the twinkle lights and noise, let us offer a moment for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. On the day with the longest night, we'll offer prayers for the world and one another, and draw near to God. Reflective music and spiritual practices will help us center ourselves. Join us for a time of hope and healing.

Virtual Book Study: The Amen Effect

January 12, 19, 26 and February 2, 9 @ 6:00 pm

In a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation, what will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society? Rabbi Sharon Brous, in her book *The Amen Effect*, posits that honoring the yearning for real connection, our most basic human instinct, can reawaken our shared humanity and begin the healing process. Join PATHWAYS for a weekly, Monday evening Zoom book study as we explore this wonderful resource. Discussions begin at 6 pm from January 12 to February 9. Register early at seekthepath.org to receive a copy of the book.

December 7
Isaiah 11:1-10
Luke 1:26-38

December 14
Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 1:18-25

December 21
Micah 2:2-5a
Luke 1:39-58

December 28
Isaiah 52:7-10
John 1:1-14

Service & Outreach

There's still time to provide hope and happiness this holiday season. Grab a tag from our Angel Tree to provide a gift for a foster child with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Wrapped gifts are due to CLC by December 3. Also, you can donate monetarily towards Christmas stockings for our friends at Mosaic. Due date is also Dec 3.

Men of Christ Christmas Party

Calendar alert: the annual Men of Christ Christmas Party is Saturday, December 13. Festivities begin at 6 pm at the American Legion Post (900 W. Chrysler Dr, Belvidere). 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 freewill offering will be received to offset party expenses, with any remaining funds going to ELCA World Hunger. Signups requested by December 7. *Oh what fun!*



Adult Forum

What does it mean to be the Church in days such as these? Let's explore that question in five consecutive sessions as it relates to the ELCA's recently adopted social statement, "Faith and Civic Life." This Adult Forum series, facilitated by Pastor Jeff Clements, begins in November and continues through Sunday, December 21.

Adult Forum will take a break over the holidays and reconvene on Sunday, January 11.

Godly Play

Join in the fun and learning about the Advent season on December 7 & 21. Can't wait to be together!



Lighting the Way

We can't get enough of our lighted landscape these days. Already the praise is streaming in! Thanks be to God for all those who helped with this project. What a joyous way to shine Christ's light for all to see this Christmas season.

Christ in Literature

A story of do-overs, suspense, and unforgettable love. A moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and risks we take in order to become ourselves. This and more are some of the topics within our next Christ in Literature book. Join us on December 1 as we discuss Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan's book, *Mad Honey*.

Looking ahead: Join our January 5th discussion of *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende.

End of Year Gifting

If you are considering making a year-end charitable gift, you can help maintain the ongoing ministries at CLC by supporting the General Fund. Gifts to the Building Fund also keep our facilities attractive and running smoothly. Gifts for 2025 are accepted through December 31.



Christ Lutheran

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makingChristknown.org

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

Also on Facebook, search:

Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 9:00 am

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Find Hope this Christmas

Hope Has Dawned, Noel, the newly-written Christmas cantata by Mary McDonald, will be presented on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21.

The world was lost in darkness, awaiting a Messiah. Then, a dawn of new hope as the world had never seen was born in a modest stable. This cantata transports you to Bethlehem to experience anew the magnificent Christmas story through words and music. Join us at 9 am to hear the Spirit Singers present beloved carols and new music that will stir the heart and soul.

