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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

SINCE YOU ASKED...

Though I have been here a little more than four months, I have not had the opportunity to meet many of you in person. I thought I would take this time to share with you ten important things to know about me in no particular order:

1. I am the middle of three girls with no brothers. I am close with my family, including my five nieces and one nephew.
2. Except for college and seminary, I have always lived with at least one cat.
3. I have played violin since I was seven. I started at public school in the first grade.
4. I love to read - I have a never-ending stack of books to read next. Some favorite genres are biographies, fantasies, mysteries, and thrillers.
5. I am a HUGE dork - I love Lord of the Rings, Doctor Who, and many of the shows on PBS.



6. I really enjoy travelling and wish I could do more of it.
7. Winter is my favorite season, especially when there is a fresh layer of snow.
8. I am trying to go for walks more frequently - if you know of any great places to walk, pass them along. Or join me for a walk!
9. I like to support local businesses - if there are any great eateries I should try, let me know!
10. The transition to Rockford has been harder than anticipated. I look forward to things opening back up so I can explore my new home in more depth.

I invite any suggestions for places to eat, enjoyable walking routes, or things that I should check out that make Rockford uniquely Rockford. And I look forward to seeing you all face-to-face one day! Until then, thank you for your support from afar! - Deacon Laura Gorton



GRATITUDE IN THE CLC FAMILY

Marie Day writes, "Thank you so much for all the cards, notes, and Christmas cards. I appreciate so much hearing from you. I am looking forward to getting back to church when we can" . . . Anne Kutz writes, "Thank you so much for the poinsettia plant, which has deep red petals and is very full. I have missed being in church -- the singing, the fellowship, the messages." . . . Karen Swanson writes, "The red poinsettia is beautiful. In this challenging Advent the burst of red reminds me that all is not "black," "dark," and "dismal," but we have hope and joy." . . . Adele Jedynek writes, "Oh! My! Word! It! Is! A! Beauty! I have rarely seen, let alone received, such a beautiful flower. I plan to selfishly enjoy it in my own apartment until Saturday, when I will share its loveliness in the lobby with my neighbors." . . . Elaine and Dick Winkelman write, "Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia. We really enjoy it, and, each time we see it, we think of how much we miss Christ Lutheran and our church family members." . . . Lucille Weber writes, "Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant. I placed it in the sun room where it receives good light. Thank you also for the Advent/Christmas cards. I look forward to the time we can worship together again." . . . Jan Hedrick writes "What a welcome sight, a most beautiful poinsettia! So lovely, it has added the finishing touches to my Christmas preparation."

CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Will be meeting at Christ Lutheran on **Monday, February 1 at 3 pm.** This month's book selection is *You Are Not Alone* by Hendricks/Pekkanen.



THANK YOU FROM VICAR!

Dear CLC, Thank you for the amazing farewell and the beautiful stoles. I am so grateful you all welcomed me as your intern and supported me throughout the past two years. CLC was an important part of my pastoral formation and you all have a special place in my heart. No matter where I end up in ministry, I will always remember you when I put on one of the beautiful stoles you gave me. With great thanks and gratitude, Katrina Steingraeber

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

What a wonderful coincidence it was! In late November, Deacon Jennifer observed that our Clavinova, while still functional, would someday soon approach the end of its lifespan. In late December, Jim and Colleen Hanson offered to make a gift, in memory of his father, Jim Hanson, Sr., of a new clavinova for Christ Lutheran's worship. We give thanks to Jim and Colleen for this timely and most generous memorial gift! We look forward to our Annual Meeting, on February 14, at which Deacon Jennifer will give us a short mini-concert on the new instrument.

February 7, 2021

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 14, 2021

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 21, 2021

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 28, 2021

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



STAFF GRATITUDE

"It is not joy that makes us grateful.
It is gratitude that makes us joyful!"
-- Brother David Steindl-Rast

What a privilege it is to serve a community which both brings such joy to and graciously shares gratitude with its staff. As your staff we wish to say "thank you" for your generous staff gift at Christmas. Your gift is a reminder to each of us of the grace with which God has so lavishly gifted us in Christ. We continue to feel honored to serve alongside you.

Vicar Katrina Steingraeber

Michelle Nelson

Craig Carlson

Valerie Dusso

Deacon Jennifer Fox

Deacon Laura Gorton

Pastor Twila Schock

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars now for CLC's Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 14 at 10:30 am**. Because of uncertainties due to the pandemic, this will be held as a Zoom meeting. We encourage logging/calling in shortly after 10:00 a.m. for ease in taking attendance. A Zoom invite will be sent to you via e-mail on Friday, February 12. The protocol for an electronic annual meeting will arrive in the mail along with your annual report and agenda. Please plan to attend!

LENTEN WORSHIP

Because the test positivity rate for COVID has been falling at an encouraging pace in Region 1 of Illinois, our staff is in regular contact with our congregation's leadership with regard to returning to in-person worship. Because it is too soon to make determinations, yet, with regard to Lenten worship, we wish to share at this time that there is a possibility for both in-person and on-line opportunities for Ash Wednesday and Lenten Wednesdays. These determinations will be made and announced in early February. Watch your in-box for updates!



GOOD GIFTS RETURN!

Throughout the season of Lent, Christ Lutheran will be supporting Good Gifts, which is a part of ELCA World Hunger. We invite you to consider purchasing one of the twenty gifts that are available in eight categories. Money raised through Good Gifts helps support programs in 77 different countries. Whether you help provide animals for families, buy things that will help sustain health around the world, sponsor education for children or microloans for women, or even help those in our own backyards, your gifts help to show and spread the love of Christ. Simply fill out the order form and send it in, along with your check, to Christ Lutheran. Any questions can be directed to Deacon Laura.





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Phone: 815-885-2522
www.makingChristknown.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Al Francik | President |
| 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 |
| Valerie Dusso | Office & Com. Administrator |
| Deacon Jennifer Fox | Minister for Worship & Music |
| Craig Carlson | Church Musician |
| Michelle Nelson | Finance Assistant |

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FEBRUARY DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

LAURA STEPHENS-REED, A SPIRITUAL COACH, WRITES THAT PRAYER ON BEHALF OF OTHERS IS ESSENTIAL, BUT SO IS PRAYER FOR THE SELF. SHE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS DESIGNED TO FOCUS ON THE "PRAY-ER" AS WE SEEK GOD'S HELP IN BECOMING MORE FULLY THE PERSON GOD HAS CALLED EACH OF US TO BE. YOU MAY WISH TO BEGIN EACH INTENTION WITH "HOLY ONE, HELP ME TO . . . "

	DAY 1 Ask more often than I tell.	DAY 2 Discern the way forward in matters big and small.	DAY 3 More fully utilize my God-given talents.	DAY 4 Say what needs to be said and resist the temptation to speak what should remain silent.	DAY 5 Take time to play.	DAY 6 Use my resources on behalf of those with fewer resources.
DAY 7 Believe that I am loved and called by God.	DAY 8 Process my anxiety without visiting it on others.	DAY 9 Tend to the needs of my body, mind, and soul.	DAY 10 Participate positively in my community.	DAY 11 Hope with abandon.	DAY 12 Prioritize relationships over to-do's.	DAY 13 Dance in each moment.
DAY 14 Look for the opportunity in change.	DAY 15 Strive for the humility and strength of Christ.	DAY 16 Dig deep to find untapped courage.	DAY 17 Understand my privilege and the way it impacts others.	DAY 18 Grow in wisdom about important things.	DAY 19 See the image of God in all people.	DAY 20 Know when to say "no" in order to say "yes."
DAY 21 Love in a way that stretches me.	DAY 22 Acknowledge what I don't know.	DAY 23 Listen with an open and attentive heart.	DAY 24 Open myself to be surprised by joy.	DAY 25 Care well for my corner of God's creation.	DAY 26 Increase patience with myself and others.	DAY 27 Forgive old hurts, freeing myself from their power over me.
DAY 28 Help others discover their strengths.						