

March 2021



Congratulations,
Elected Leaders!
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Cotton Fabric
Collection
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Lenten and Holy
Week Schedules
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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

REVISITING THE GREAT THREE DAYS

While the most exhausting time of the church year, “the great three days” are also my favorite time in the church year – our annual experience of the heart of the Christian faith. Because there ought to be no immersion into suffering without the gift of the resurrection, and there should be no Easter without Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, our annual three-day service holds suffering and resurrection together in the mystery of Christ.

Maundy Thursday. We begin Maundy Thursday by acknowledging our sin and receiving forgiveness. Forgiven by God, we turn to our neighbor in service, symbolized by the foot washing and sharing in the holy meal. We disperse in silence on this day – no sending song, no blessing or dismissal, only the rustle of jackets, and the sound of freshly washed feet moving into the night.

Good Friday. Since this day's service is a continuation of yesterday's service, it begins very simply and silently. Christians call this day “Good.” It is a day, not of absolute mourning, as if Jesus were dead-Dead-DEAD, but of contemplation of the mystery that through death, God grants the world new life. We behold the life-giving cross at the

center of this service, as it passes through our gathering. And, when it does, we cry, “Oh, come, let us worship him.”

Holy Saturday. This night of nights is the great drama of our faith. This drama has four major “acts”: Fire, Word, Font, and Meal. The Easter fire bursts with resurrection light while the new paschal candle portrays Christ among us. We process this fire into the worship space where we show and tell the Bible stories of our redemption. From this story of salvation, we move to the font where we remember and give thanks for our baptism.

Finally, the lights in the worship space are brightened as we sing the “Alleluia” for the first time since Transfiguration Sunday, the space is adorned with flowers, and all gather around the table.

I do hope you'll join us for “the great three days” this year, whether in person or electronically. Especially after the challenges of the past year will “the great three days” be lush with meaning and transformation for each of us.

Peace, Pastor Twila

(Portions of this article have been adapted from “Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days.”)



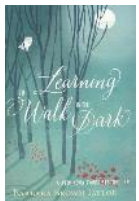
IN THE CLC FAMILY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Marie Day, who died on February 24. May light perpetual shine on her+ . . . Congratulations to 9-year-old Tyler McGuire who was recognized in the State of Georgia Young Authors Competition for his story, "The Story of a Cat Named Tommy." Tyler's family (CLC members) moved to Georgia recently. Tyler is the grandson of CLC member, Dave Swanson.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS RETURN

Lenten Wednesdays offer an excellent way for you to deepen your prayer life, study the scriptures more diligently, and enjoy congregational fellowship. While COVID is preventing us from enjoying our usual soup suppers, we will begin each evening with fellowship and music at 6:00 pm, followed by learning at 6:15 pm. Lenten Wednesday learning this year will be a unique study called **Question for Jesus**. In this Bible study, we will explore challenging questions for Christians today through the lens of Mark's Gospel. We will close the evening with Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. (On-line worship will be available via e-mail at 6:30 pm.)

Contemplative Prayer will also be held each Wednesday at 12:15 pm either in person or via Zoom. Call the church office if you would like to receive the Zoom link.



CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Will be meeting at Christ Lutheran on **Monday, March 1 at 3 pm**. This month's book selection is *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

CONGRATULATIONS, ELECTED LEADERS!

Congratulations to the following persons who were elected to leadership at our recent annual meeting – Council: Kathy Hucker, Denise Rindels, Diane Peters (Treasurer), Ken Erboe, Shari Warmoth, Dave Swanson, and Syd Nolan. Nominating Committee: Bev Frank, John Sommerfield, Colleen Hanson, Nancy Bieck, Lynn Carlson, and Sharon Bramel. Synod Assembly Delegates: Bill and Lee Blackburn. Endowment Fund Committee: Kelly Erboe, Kari Rioux. Audit Committee: Chris Zook. Rockford Lutheran School Board Delegate: Rose Schoepfer. We thank these friends for availing themselves for service. We invite your prayers for them as they help to provide leadership and guidance at CLC.

THRIVENT CHOICE DEADLINE

If you own a Thrivent financial product, you are eligible to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars for the charity of your choice. All Thrivent Choice Dollars dedicated to Christ Lutheran Church in 2021 will support the purchase of spiritual resources for the PATHWAYS center in the CLC library. The deadline for dedicating your dollars is March 31. Go to www.thrivent.com.

EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to sponsor plants to beautify our Easter Worship service? Plants are \$14 and they can be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Order forms available in the gathering space.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive will be held on **Tues., March 30**. Volunteers are needed, please see the sign-up sheets in the gathering space.

March 7, 2021

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 14, 2021

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 21, 2021

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 28, 2021

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47



CLC RECEIVES CHURCH PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM MOSAIC NATIONAL

(Excerpted from a Mosaic press release.) Mosaic has awarded Christ Lutheran Church in Belvidere the

Church Partner of the Year Award. The national award, new this year, recognizes a church that demonstrates leadership excellence in community relations and fundraising, helping to advance Mosaic's mission and cultivate long-term partnerships. It was given as part of Mosaic's Partners in Possibilities program, which promotes sustainable fundraising and builds community relationships to support the organization's mission of service and love. According to Dave deFreese, Vice President of Church Relations in Omaha, NE, "Christ Lutheran partnered with our Mosaic in Rockford agency to create one of our first church hubs, where they provided weekday activities for people served by Mosaic. The church leaders are also active in a multi-congregation Rejoicing Spirits program."

GRIEF GROUP RETURNS

Patricia Cox is willing to resume our grief and loss group in mid-March but would appreciate knowing if there is interest at this time. In addition to the usual topics, she will address "covid fatigue" and depression. This will be an in person, socially-distanced group in the West Wing. Meeting time can be based on needs of the participants. If interested, call or text Patricia at 815-222-8531.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS!

If you have a specific date you want to honor or remember someone, now is a good time to sign up. The flower chart is located in the gathering space.

GOOD GIFTS RETURN!

Throughout the season of Lent, we are supporting Good Gifts, which is a part of ELCA World Hunger. 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 (found in the gathering space) and send it in, along with your check, to Christ Lutheran. Any questions can be directed to Deacon Laura.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held online June 21-25. Registration information coming soon!

COTTON FABRIC COLLECTION

The Service & Outreach Committee is collecting cotton fabric and other sewing supplies throughout the month of March for the Contact & Resource Center (CRC) in Beirut. CRC was founded in 1978 after the civil war in Lebanon to support physically disabled war victims. The women's program sews and sells quilts to help support disabled women in their community. Our goal is to collect cotton fabric (any pattern or color), which is difficult to secure in Lebanon. It does not need to be brand new. They also need other quilting supplies: rotary cutters and blades, geometric sets (rules, triangles, squares of all sizes), quilting mats, and quilting thread. Direct any questions to Deacon Laura.



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Belvidere, IL 61008

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
Ken Erboe	Council Member
Tari Flack	Council Member
Kathy Hucker	Council Member
Mike Meinert	Council Member
Syd Nolan	Council Member
Denise Rindels	Council Member
David Swanson	Council Member
Shari Warmoth	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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Lenten Wednesdays Weekly Schedule

- 12:15 PM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
- 6:00 PM MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP
- 6:15 PM LEARNING
- 6:30 PM EVENING PRAYER (EMAIL)
- 7:00 PM HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- 3.28 Palm Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 am
- 4.01 Maundy Thursday, 12:00 & 7:00 pm
- 4.02 Good Friday, 12:00 & 7:00 pm
- 4.03 The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00 pm
- 4.04 The Resurrection of Our Lord,
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am (reservations requested)