

March 2023

Christ  
**ALIVE!**  
Vol. 31 / Issue 3

Sharing Mission, Ministry,  
and Life in Christ

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# The value of silence

"The use of white space," a graphic artist will say, "is every bit as important as the use of word, color, or image. White becomes a color in its own right."

"Musical rests," musicians will agree, "speak every bit as loudly as the notes that lie between them."

"Silence – its amount and quality," the communications instructor advises, "has much to say about the words actually uttered."

White space. Rests. Silence.

If there is one time of the church year above all else in which white space, rests, and silence add texture to the depth of our liturgies, readings, and devotions it is during Lent.

The role of words and silence is best likened, for me, in a visit to Auschwitz. Auschwitz, the largest Nazi extermination camp in Poland, has come to represent evil and is often referred to as "the graveyard of the nations."

A visit to Auschwitz is all but devoid of words. Only at the gate is the visitor greeted with a brief spoken introduction. Then the silent walk begins. At one station, the visitor stands in a room filled to the ceiling with only human hair. The text is spartan . . . one sentence . . . enough for the sojourner to understand that this hair once bounced on the heads of innocent children giggling on a playground.

The visitor walks on. At the next station, the visitor stands in a room filled with a mountain of work shoes. The text? Another sentence only . . . enough to remind the visitor that these shoes hobbled elderly women toward their yet premature deaths at the crematorium.

The walk continues. The visitor stands in a room of only artificial limbs . . .

Words cannot describe the horror, nor should they try to. But select words focus the experience. Words, like careful lighting in a museum, bring out the essence of the experience.

This year during Lent, you will be invited – as you are every year in our liturgy – to the spiritual practices of self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, and reading God's holy Word.

And this year, I want to invite you to punctuate your words and your practices with silence.

Contemplate the possibility of an open tomb for the one who is grieving. Consider the meaning of the 40 day journey in the desert for the one who is thirsting. Reflect on the meaning of 30 pieces of silver for the one in your life who has been betrayed.

Dear friends in Christ, may your Lenten journey be rich, and may you arrive at the Resurrection energized for service in Christ's holy name.

Lenten blessings,

*P. J. J. J.*

(intentional  
white space)

## Holy Week

Join us for the most sacred week in the Church year, beginning with the commemoration of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm/Passion Sunday. We'll gather to observe the Last Supper and washing of the disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday, Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday, and conclude with the movement from Christ's death to his resurrection at the Saturday Easter Vigil and Sunday celebration of the Resurrection.



### Palm/Passion

**Sunday Cantata "The Lenten Sketches"**

April 2 at 8:00 & 10:30 am

**Maundy Thursday** April 6 at 7:00 pm

**Good Friday** April 7 at Noon & 7:00 pm

**Vigil of Easter** April 8 at 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday** April 9 at 8:00 & 10:30

## Congratulations Elected Leaders

Congratulations to the following who were elected to leadership positions at our Annual Meeting:

**Council:** Allie Carlson, Bob Casagrande, Lori Murphy, Denise Rindels, Dave Swanson

**Nominating Committee:** Ken Erboe, Harold Heeren, Judy Kinney, Sandy Stansell, Shari Warmoth, Jack Wilson

**Synod Assembly Delegates:** Bill Blackburn, Elaine Hoyt

**Endowment Fund Committee:** Sherry Klotz, Jenny Mander, Pat Mucha

**Audit Committee:** Jeff Bieck, Jim McGinnis

**Rockford Lutheran School Board Delegate:** Diane Peters

## PATHWAYS Happenings

Monthly **Centering Prayer** continues on Thursday, March 2 at 10:00 am, offering scriptural foundations for a time of silent meditation and prayer.

Our Spiritual Center will go "on the road" again to the Congregational Resourcing Event on Saturday, March 4 at Sauk Valley Community College. Karen Glavin and Deacon Laura will present a workshop on PATHWAYS and promote the mission and offerings of the Center.

Lastly, a quarterly PATHWAYS newsletter will launch at the end of quarter one (2023). Watch your email inbox in the coming days for the debut issue.



## Adult Forum

During the season of Lent, our Adult Forum time will feature presentations from organizations that have received grants from CLC's Mission Endowment Fund. We will hear from Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries (RALM), Mosaic, Rock House Kids, Youth for Christ, and the Mercyhealth Development Foundation.

## Synod Resourcing Event

The annual Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) is once again being held in person! On March 4 at Sauk Valley Community College, we'll explore what it means to "Be the Body" with other congregations and members of the Northern Illinois Synod. All are welcome!

There are a number of free tickets available for this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Deacon Laura. Visit [nisynod.org/programs/cre](http://nisynod.org/programs/cre) for more information.

## Worship Ministry Availability

Watch your inboxes for the next survey to provide your availability for worship ministries in April, May, and June. Hard copies will be available on the counter in the gathering space.

## Pastoral Transition Period

Our time of pastoral transition has begun. More information about the transition pastor and the transition process will be coming soon from the congregational council.

## Outdoor Cross

Once again, the Evangelism team and Christ Lutheran are marking the season of Lent with our simple, beautiful, hand-crafted outdoor cross. We look forward to having it up throughout the season, and weather permitting, will adorn it during Holy Week.

Special thanks to Don Kinney and Howard Yakey for their fine installation work (if you blinked, you might have missed how efficient they were)! A job well done!



### March 5, 2023

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

### March 12, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### March 19, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

## Service & Outreach

### Good Gifts

Throughout the season of Lent, we will collect offerings for ELCA World Hunger's *Good Gifts* program. Your gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.

Check out a brochure and fill out a form in the gathering space. Please make checks payable to Christ Lutheran.



## Farewell Video and Photo Album

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Pr. Twila's final Sunday (February 19) at Christ Lutheran so meaningful. Our Spirit-filled worship and farewell luncheon were very well attended — a testament to her and our faithful community.

With special thanks to Patrick Fox, there is video footage from the luncheon. At the time of this printing, the video is in editing stage. As soon as it's available, you will be notified via email.

It is also our intention to post a photo album to Facebook from her last day. If anyone has pictures from worship or the luncheon, please send them to Katie Belinson at [katie@makingchristknown.org](mailto:katie@makingchristknown.org).

## Christ in Literature

On Monday, March 6, we will discuss Anne Youngson's book *Meet Me at the Museum*. This novel, a series of letters between two people, helps create a lifeline that lifts these subjects out of the bog of their circumstances. "This is a touching, hopeful story about figuring out what matters and mustering the courage to make the necessary changes" (from NPR).

Christ in Literature meets at 3:00 — join us!

## First Communion

A First Communion class will be held on Saturday, March 18 from 9 am — 12 pm. As part of their instruction, students will learn about the significance of the Lord's Supper and prepare communion bread.

Please contact Deacon Laura if you are interested in having your child or youth attend the class.



## Young Adults

All young adults are invited to two opportunities for study and fellowship this month:

**Brunch and Bible Study** will take place on Sunday, March 5. Please let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know by March 1 if you plan to attend.

Another rousing night of **bowling** is planned for Friday, March 24 at 6 pm. We'll gather at The Cherry Bowl, where pizza and pop will be provided! Join the fun!



## Fun and Games

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and some light competition at Fun and Games on Friday, March 10 and Friday, March 24. The merriment kicks off at 6:00 pm.

## Daily Lenten Devotions

Thanks to the PATHWAYS Center, daily Lenten devotional booklets are available free of charge in the entry. Pick yours up now! Large print copies available.

## Pastor's Pick

Have you ever found that the rush of daily life has separated you from your sense of inner well-being and peace? *Simple Ways: Towards the Sacred* by Gunilla Norris may be the perfect book for you.

Divided into four sections, this book of short meditations and prayers directs us toward the holy in our daily lives:

*Towards the Sacred with Our Bodies*  
*Towards the Sacred in Our Dwellings*  
*Towards the Sacred in Our Everyday Thing*  
*Towards the Sacred in Our Gratitude*

These meditations can guide us in encountering the sacred exactly where we are.





# Christ Lutheran

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

Also on Facebook, search:  
*Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal*

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Our Council

Al Francik	President
Lee Blackburn	Vice President
Sue Hunter	Secretary
Diane Peters	Treasurer
Jenny Campbell	Council Member
Allie Carlson	Council Member
Bob Casagrande	Council Member
Tari Flack	Council Member
Lori Murphy	Council Member
Syd Nolan	Council Member
Denise Rindels	Council Member
Dave Swanson	Council Member

### Our Staff

Deacon Laura Gorton	Associate Minister
Deacon Jennifer Fox	Minister for Worship & Music
Katie Belinson	Dir. of Outreach & Communications
Dagny Brandt	Church Musician
Craig Carlson	Church Musician
Michelle Nelson	Finance & Office Administrator
Chris Parkinson	Church Musician

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## Lenten Wednesdays

Join us beginning March 1 for  
Lenten Wednesdays — a time of  
nourishment, study and reflection.

**5:30 pm Soup Supper**  
**6:15 pm Lenten Learning**  
**7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer**

Look for soup sign up sheets in  
the gathering space. The set-up  
and clean-up schedule is as  
follows:

March 1: Spirit Ringers &  
Spirit Singers  
March 8: Men of Christ  
March 15: PATHWAYS,  
Stewardship, Youth &  
Young Adults  
March 22: Service & Outreach,  
Education, Evangelism  
March 29: CLC Council

