

April 2021



Peanut Butter Drive!
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Holy Week & Easter Schedule
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Christ Alive!

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

EASTER: GOING IN THE DEEP END

"Don't go near the deep end!" Elmer reminded. "That swimming pool is strange. The current will suck you under."

Elmer didn't know two things about me when he left me at the swimming pool that night. First, that I had no idea how to swim. Second, that if someone told me not to do something, I most certainly would try it.

Defying the stern instructions, I tested the waters. At three feet, I felt no current. At three and a half feet, I felt no current. At four feet, still no current. My 10-year-old ego was well-inflated by this time. At four and a half feet, I took my last willing step. Suddenly, I was vacuumed . . . step by step . . . into the deepest waters until they closed over my head.

Time froze. My world was dark. Cold frightening. Alone. Powerless. No breath. I was drowning.

And, suddenly, a hand. Warm. Strong. Assuring. Tugging at my hand. And I was led back to shallow water. Back to the world of light, warmth,

breath, and community. A good lesson in life: yes! And even better lesson on eternal life. Easter life!

Dying and rising. Drowning the "old Adam" in the waters of baptism so that the "new Adam" might emerge from the waters with new life. This is the 'stuff' of which baptisms are made. This drowning and rising is what has made us who we are – Easter people. Celebrators of Christ's victory over death.

Four young people will be affirming their baptisms in the weeks to come. We invite your prayers for these youth who have learned of the miracle of Christ's promises and have come to understand God's miraculous use of water in their lives.

And, may we, during the days of Easter which are swiftly approaching, give thanks for the one who, on our behalf, entered the depths in which time freezes. The deep in which there is no warmth, power, comfort, or breath. May we, again, sing "Alleluia" to the one who has brought us safely to the shallow waters of new life. Amen.

Peace, Pastor Twila



IN THE CLC FAMILY

Katrina Steingraeber, CLC's former vicar, was featured in an article in *The Epistle*, the quarterly magazine for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The article is posted on the bulletin board in the gathering space.

NEWCOMERS WELCOMED!

We will be formally receiving newcomers who joined Christ Lutheran during the months of the pandemic on **Sunday, June 6**. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about Christ Lutheran, please reach out to Pastor Twila.

DON'T MISS THE 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.

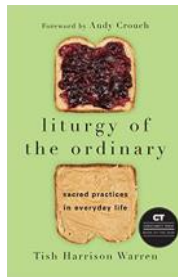


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for an online adventure to Athens this summer for Vacation Bible School, **June 21-25!** We'll learn about God's love and hear from the Apostle Paul as he shares the good news of Jesus. We'll learn some Greek, make some great crafts, do some cool experiments, sing fun songs, and hear awesome stories! Registration information coming soon!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Are you graduating from high school, college, grad school, or another vocational training program? We want to celebrate you! Please share where you are graduating from, any concentrations or majors you have studied, any future plans, and a photo of yourself to laura@makingChristknown.org by April 21. We will highlight graduates in the May newsletter, as well as in worship on May 23. Any questions can be directed to Deacon Laura.



EASTER BOOK STUDY

During the season of Easter, Pastor Twila will lead a book study of "Liturgy of the Ordinary" by Trish Harrison Warren. This book, named "Christian Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*, explores how we can become aware of God's presence in very surprising ways. Our five-week study will be held on Thursdays at 9:00 am (in person) and 5:00 pm. (via Zoom) beginning April 15. Register now to receive your free copy of the book!

PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

CLC is collecting peanut butter for children and families over the summer. Peanut butter is a great source of nutrition for families on a tight budget. So next time you stop by Woodman's, Meijer's, or your favorite grocery store, grab an extra jar of peanut butter and bring it to church! Collection will happen **April 4-May 2**.

April 4, 2021

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 11, 2021

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18, 2021

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25, 2021

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

ELCA GOOD GIFTS!

We have raised \$2,365 for Good Gifts, a ministry of ELCA World Hunger. Our congregation was able to raise enough funds to purchase or fund:

- 8 chicks + 1 rooster
- 4 groups of honeybees
- 1 share of a fish farm
- 2 piglets
- 4 goats
- 6 water filters
- 1 portion of an irrigation project
- 1 set of school supplies for a classroom
- Paying for one woman to attend farmers' field school
- 2 microloans for a woman
- 1 set of seeds and gardening tools
- 5 fruit-tree seedlings
- 7 mosquito nets
- 3 sets of soap & sanitation supplies
- 3 sets of personal protective equipment
- Stocking a health clinic for 4 weeks
- Stocking 8 backpacks with food
- \$525 to help where it's needed most

Thank you to all of those who gave so generously to help our neighbors both near and far!



CHRIST IN LITERATURE

Will be meeting at Christ Lutheran on **Monday, April 12 at 3 pm**. This month's book selection is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele.



DON'T FORGET THE CLC APP!

Have you used the CLC app lately? Did you know that you can listen to Sunday's sermon while driving your car by using the app? Or, that you can check for Holy Week worship times? Or, that CLC's full calendar of events is there as well? You can even make your Sunday offering by using the app! Check it out! .

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.

MEN OF CHRIST

Will meet on **Tuesday, April 6 and 20** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Contact Jim Hanson for details.



425 Riverside Road
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

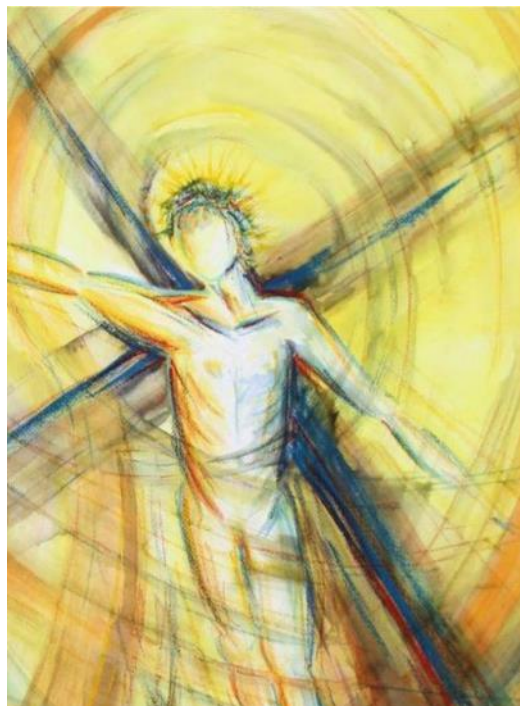
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Our Staff

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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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- 3.28 Palm Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 am (reservations requested)
- 3.29 Stations of the Cross, 9 am-3 pm
- 3.30 Stations of the Cross, 9 am-3 pm
- 3.31 Stations of the Cross, 9 am-3 pm
- 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)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For reservations, please call 815-885-2522.