

Christ ALIVE!



I was a junior at Concordia College and I was lost. Not literally, but figuratively. Having changed my major at least six times, I had no clue what lay ahead. And, so I did what I so often did when confused; I walked in the forest by the bank of the Red River.

Oddly, as I walked, the words of Psalm 51 began drifting through my mind: *Create in me a clean heart of God, and renew a right spirit within. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation . . .*

Here's the thing! I never consciously memorized this psalm. It was just there – in the back of my mind, probably from years of singing it in the liturgy as a child. *Restore unto me the joy of your salvation! Restore!* That was the prayer that I needed to pray.

Since that day, I am a firm believer in memorization.

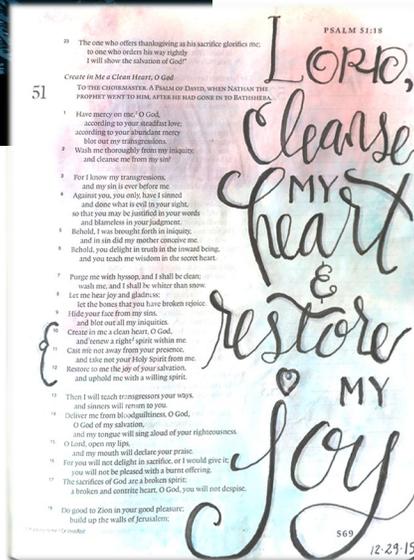
Rarely valued anymore, memorization is an artform. So often, in times of distress, words long-buried find their way back into our minds. How often have we

heard stories of persons with dementia joining in singing "Silent Night" or praying the Lord's Prayer. Words that surface from a deep place within.

In times of crisis, what words surface for you? When you feel lost in the wilderness do forgotten words arise that have indelibly been written on your soul?

In the season of Lent, we are invited with Jesus into the wilderness – into times of quiet reflection and commitment to spiritual practices. In our Lenten moments of quiet, pay attention. Is God showing up in words of faithfulness, long buried by the busyness and noisiness of our times? In the loneliness of stark times, may God surprise us and remind us that we are not alone.

Blessed Lent,
Pastor Twila



Journey with CLC through Holy Week

Join us for this most sacred week in the Church year. It begins with the commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm/Passion Sunday, climaxing with the commemoration of the Last Supper and washing of the disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday and the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. The week concludes 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 "Behold the Lamb"

April 10 at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 15 at 12 noon & 7:00 p.m.

Great Vigil of Easter April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 17 at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

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Welcome Newly-Elected Leaders!

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

Council – President Al Francik, Vice-President Lee Blackburn, Secretary Sue Hunter, Syd Nolan, Jenny Campbell, Jim Hanson, Tari Flack.

Nominating Committee – Mike Meinert, Kathy Hucker, Don Skadow, Pat Mucha, Deb Hightower, Sally Rode.

Synod Assembly Delegates – Jeff and Nancy Bieck.

Endowment Fund Committee – Gwen Sommerfield, Steven Larsen, Paul Larsen.

Audit Committee – Jodi Jameson.

Rockford Lutheran School Board Delegate – Rosie Schoepfer.

Please keep them in your prayers as they carry out the very important task of leading and representing CLC.

Connect With Us on Facebook

Have you visited CLC's Facebook page recently? We are posting frequently these days in the hopes of increasing our page likes and broadening our community. When people **Like**, **Comment** and/or **Share** our posts, this helps drive traffic to our site. Facebook is an effective and inexpensive tool with which to share messaging with those outside our doors and show what is happening at our church.



Also, please **Like** our brand new PATHWAYS Facebook page. This is a great way to introduce our Spiritual Center to those unfamiliar with it.

Please visit both pages often for information and some fun content!

facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere

facebook.com/Pathways-A-Center-for-Spiritual-Renewal-108272951808612

Blood Drive

CLC's next blood drive is Tuesday, April 26. Volunteers are needed to bring food, help set up or clean up, or donate blood. Additionally, we are looking for one or two people to serve as "grill masters." Please let Deacon Laura know if you can help with grilling.

To donate blood, sign up in the gathering space or schedule an appointment online [using this link](#).

PATHWAYS Offerings

Be Your Own Inspiration!

Beginning on Thursday, April 21, at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Twila will lead us in a 5-week book study of Dr. Dawna Markova's book, *"I Will Not Die an Unlived Life."* Poetic and inspiring, this book is a collection of insightful stories and questions that guide the search to find personal balance, reclaim passion and purpose in life, and focus attention and awareness on the present moment.

Participants will receive both a copy of the book and a journal. Express your interest in attending to Pastor Twila.

Study dates: April 21 & 28, May 5, 12 & 26

Keeping Faith in Difficult Times

Join the Rev. Dr. April Ullring Larson, ELCA Bishop Emeritus of the La Crosse Area Synod, as she speaks about her faith in a loving God during difficult times. Bishop April lost her son, Ben, in the 2010 Haiti earthquake and she will reference the book, *A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection*, which her daughter-in-law, Renee Splichal Larson, wrote about love, grief, survival, and new life. She will preach at both services on **Sunday, April 24**. Our time together will continue at 11:45 a.m. with a complimentary lunch, followed by discussion and book review. This is a free event; register at seekthepath.org.

April 3, 2022

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 10, 2022

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

April 17, 2022

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12



April 24, 2022

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Service and Outreach

Cereal Collection: Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries and Rock House Kids have teamed up to collect individually packaged cereal cups/boxes. Look for the collection barrel in the gathering space. Donations accepted through April 3.

Good Gifts: During the season of Lent, the Service and Outreach team is collecting donations for Good Gifts. This program is sponsored through ELCA World Hunger and works to meet needs identified by ministry partners around the world. Donations will be accepted until April 10. All checks should be payable to CLC.

Young Adult Brunch & Bible Study: We will continue our study of the book of Numbers while we break bread together. Join us on Sunday, May 1 at 12 noon in the Conference Room. Please let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know if you plan to attend by April 27.



What's New at MOSAIC?

The pandemic was challenging for everyone. It was even more challenging for our friends with disabilities who are served by MOSAIC. Join Linda Wennmacher and Tammy English on Sunday, April 3, during our 9:30 a.m. adult forum as they tell us about how MOSAIC negotiated the pandemic and how our congregation can assist them in emerging from this challenging time.

VBS Returns!

June 13-17 • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Climb aboard the Rocky Railway this summer as in-person Vacation Bible School returns from a three year hiatus at Christ Lutheran! We'll explore all the ways that Jesus' power helps us every day! Registration opens on Easter Sunday, April 17. Find online registration on the CLC website or paper registration forms in the gathering space.



Special Guest at CLC

CLC welcomed Pastor Godson Abel Mollé, assistant to the bishop in the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, on March 20. Pastor Abel, former pastor of our companion congregation, Ilboru Lutheran Church, preached at both services, led our Adult Forum and was the guest of honor at a CLC Council reception hosted by Pastor Twila and Joe. What a joy to worship and socialize with him. Displaying one of his gifts from CLC, Pastor Abel wears his new Cubs hat well!



Christ in Literature

April 4

Join us as we discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, in which the role of indigenous knowledge as an alternative or complementary approach to Western mainstream methods of healing is analyzed. All are welcome! April 4 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Looking ahead...

On May 2nd we will discuss *A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection* by Renee Splichal Larson.

Christ in Literature meets the first Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

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www.makingChristknown.org

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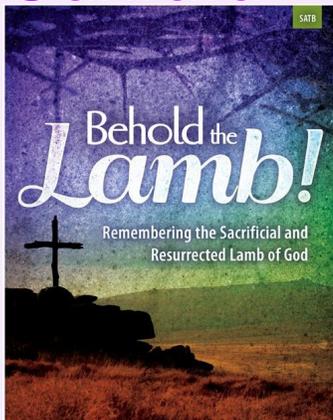
Our Staff

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

**April 10 @ 8:00 & 10:30 am
Palm/Passion Sunday**

Behold the Lamb! is a musical and narrative journey reminding us that the path to freedom and salvation came with a significant price. Invite a friend to hear this inspiring story about the Lamb of God.

Cantata



**April 11-13
(Monday-Wednesday)**

Stations of the Cross are available in the sanctuary for private meditation during office hours (or evenings if the building is open).

Stations of the Cross



Orders due April 3

Please consider purchasing a plant(s) to beautify our Easter worship services. Order forms with payment are due by Sunday, April 3. Checks payable to CLC with "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Easter Flowers

