

April 2023

Christ
ALIVE!
Vol. 31 / Issue 4

Sharing Mission, Ministry,
and Life in Christ

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Christ Lutheran
WHERE FAITH MAKES FAMILY

Creating our own yeast

Grace and peace to you, dear People of God at Christ Lutheran!

I am delighted for this opportunity to accompany you as your Transition Minister. I come to you from the South Central Wisconsin Synod, ELCA, having previously served congregations in Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, and the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA, Wisconsin. I am trained in Intentional Transitional Ministry and look forward to getting to know you and learning about important themes and core values in your life together.

Life between regularly called pastorates can be a time of anxiety. We all wish to know “how long, oh Lord, how long?” We may wish to go as fast as we can. However, during this time of transition, I may often invite us to “slow it down.” A lovely image for slowing it down is the process of creating yeasted baked goods from scratch. Yeasted dough needs time and space to swell and grow in its own good time before it’s ready to be shaped and baked. Rather than frame our work together based on ticking off points on a timeline, I’d like us to commit together to measure our progress based on the completion of a set of tasks, or activities intended to prepare us well to welcome the next settled pastor. The following five foci will give structure to our life together over the coming months—and will help the Transition Team to shape such a taskline for our transitional work together. These five areas are spelled out in my Letter of Agreement:



History / New Identity / Leadership / Being the Church / a New Future

Please look forward to learning more about these areas in coming months.

And just a bit about me: I live just 30 minutes north of the church, in Janesville, WI, where my husband, the Rev. Michael Mueller, serves as lead pastor at First Lutheran. We have three children, Peter, Lukas, and Rachel. I earned a BA in vocal music education and have additional training in Spiritual Guidance, Chaplaincy, Contemplative Leadership, and Emotional Intelligence. I look forward to sharing myself and these gifts with you!

Blessings!

Rev. Carol Baumgartner, Transition Minister

Holy Week Worship

Join us as we reflect upon the final days, death, and resurrection of Jesus through our Holy Week services.



Palm/Passion Sunday Cantata

"The Lenten Sketches"

April 2 at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday April 6 at 7:00 pm with Holy Eucharist, foot washing, and the stripping of the altar

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 am

*Please invite your kids, grandkids, and neighbors to join us for Easter. We'll have extra donuts, Easter bags for the kids, and an Alleluia celebration.
Christ is Risen!

PATHWAYS Offerings

Join us on Saturday, April 22 as we create our own art pieces through the exploration of fractals – a never-ending pattern/shape that, when divided into pieces, its pieces are the same or similar to the whole. (Think of a snowflake or fern.) Featured artist Kari Lindholm-Johnson guides our **Fractals of Grace** workshop with an emphasis on God's repeating work of love and grace in our lives. A \$30 registration fee includes lunch and all materials; scholarships are available. Don't miss this unique opportunity to stretch your creativity muscle through this spiritual discipline. **Register at seekthepath.org.**

Another PATHWAYS offering, **Centering Prayer**, falls this month on Maundy Thursday, April 6. What a fitting time to engage in silent meditation and prayer during Holy Week. Join us at 10 am.

FRACTALS OF GRACE

april
9am **22**
to 2:30pm

- learn about art as a spiritual discipline
- meditate on God's gift of grace
- create your own custom artwork
- stimulate your creativity using a personal symbol of love
- nourish your mind and body



ART AND SPIRITUALITY

\$30 fee covers lunch and materials. Register at seekthepath.org.



Adult Forum

CLC is excited to welcome back Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) to hear about its efforts with therapeutic foster care. Join us between worship services on April 23 to learn more about this important work in our community.

Stations of the Cross

April 3-5 (Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week) our Stations of the Cross will be available in the sanctuary for private meditation during office hours from 9 am to 3 pm (or evenings if the building is open).



Mosaic Event

On Thursday, April 27, Mosaic's annual Partners in Possibility event is taking place from 12-1 pm at Forest City Church. CLC will have at least one table reserved. If you are interested in attending this free event and learning about the great work Mosaic continues to do in our area, please let Deacon Laura know by April 20.

Library Pick of the Month

The Year of Living Biblically by A.J. Jacobs
A.J. was raised in a secular family with Jewish roots. His increasing interest in the relevance of faith in our modern world caused him to attempt to obey the Bible as literally as possible for one whole year. He followed the well-known laws, as well as the less-known (like wearing clothing with mixed fibers). This book will make you laugh and have you exploring your own faith. Check it out today!

April 2, 2023

Luke 19:28-40
and
Cantata readings

April 9, 2023 †

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

April 16, 2023

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 23, 2023

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 30, 2023

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Service & Outreach

Becca's Closet

Prom season is quickly approaching! Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries (RALM) hosts Becca's Closet, which helps to provide formal dresses to teens that would normally not be able to afford them. They are in need of help to get ready for the busy season. Two work days, April 15 and 22, have been set up for volunteers from 9 am to noon at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 3300 Rural Street, Rockford. To volunteer, please call the RALM office at 815-962-4279.

Good Gifts

Thank you to everyone who has made or is planning to make an offering to our *Good Gifts* collection for ELCA World Hunger during the season of Lent. Next month we will report on our results.

Blood Drive

Our next blood drive returns to CLC on Tuesday, May 2. Join us on the bus, help provide hospitality, or donate food. Look for the large bulletin board in the gathering space around Easter.



Evangelism

Be in the Know!

Get connected with us through your phone! Our texting program is convenient, easy, and useful. No barrage of texts to your device – just a few short messages per month to keep you updated on CLC news. Email Katie Belinson (katie@makingChristknown.org) in the office with your cell number to get signed up.



Texting Program

Receive messages of breaking news, reminders, event invitations and encouragement.

Christ in Literature

Join us on Monday, April 3 to discuss Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg's book *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules*. It is described as *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* meets *The Italian Job*. It follows a group of delinquent seniors whose desire for a better quality of life leads them to rob and ransom priceless artwork. All are welcome to come for what is sure to be a rousing conversation full of laughs!

Young Adults

Brunch and Bible Study will hit the road again on Sunday, April 23. Join us at 12 pm as we continue to grow in our faith together. Please let Allie Carlson or Deacon Laura know by April 19 if you plan to attend.

Education

VBS is coming! June 19-23

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School! This year we'll learn about the importance of water in our lives and our faith. We'll also explore the work of ELCA World Hunger across the globe and try some yummy foods from around the world.

VBS takes place June 19-23. Keep an eye out for registration info as well as donation and volunteer opportunities after Easter.

First Communion

What a delight to share a Saturday morning recently with three eager and inquisitive learners as we discussed the significance of Holy Communion.

Preparing communion bread was a highlight for all. Thanks be to God for these young people and their growing faith!





Christ Lutheran

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Our Staff

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Carol Baumgartner | Transition Minister |
| 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 |

Performed by the Spirit Singers, our Holy Week cantata will lift up important scenes in the last days of Christ's life... "with words and music (that) build a frame to cradle God's Masterpiece of grace." Invite a friend to this special musical offering!

April 2

cantata
THE LENTEN SKETCHES

Palm Sunday
8:00 & 10:30 am

