

Sharing
Mission,
Ministry,
& Life
in Christ

In this issue

Call Committee P2

PATHWAYS P2

In the CLC Family P2

Newcomers P2

Service & Outreach P3

Kids Camp P3

Financials P3

Retirement Celebration P4



The Seeds are Planted (literally)

Have you noticed a change to our landscape? Last fall, Jeff Bieck and Peter Hightower rototilled the earth where our old vegetable garden had been planted, and with the help of the Brinkley Family, new seeds were planted. This summer, we will start to see the beginnings of our new pollinator patch at CLC.

What is a pollinator patch, you may wonder? It is a designated area intentionally planted with flowers and other plants that attract and support pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It provides food and habitat for these beneficial insects, contributing to the health of both the ecosystem and the local environment.

Like most things, it will take time to see the full blooms of our planting (likely several years, but we are used to waiting). We look forward to watching our patch grow in the months and years to come.



Spring Blessing

(an excerpt by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr)

Blessed are you, spring, bright season of life awakening.
You gladden our hearts with opening buds and returning leaves
as you put on your robes of splendor.

Blessed are you, spring. You open the closed buds of our despair
as you journey with us to the flowering places.

Blessed are you, spring. You invite us to sing songs to the
frozen regions within and to bless the lessons of winter
as we become your partner in a new dance.

Blessed are you, spring, free gift of the earth.
Without cost we gaze upon your glory. You are a gospel of
good news for the poor and rich alike.

Blessed are you, spring, season of resurrection, sacrament of
promise. Like Jesus you rise up out of the darkness, leaving
around you a wake of new life.

Blessed are you, spring, miracle child of the four seasons.
With your wand of many colors you work your magic
in the corners of our darkness.

Blessed are you, spring, season of hope and
renewal. Wordless poem about all within us
that can never die. Each year you amaze us
with the miracle of returning life.

Call Committee Update

Spring is here, and with it has come more inquiries to the Northern Illinois Synod from individuals who are interested in our open position. This is good news! Although we haven't seen a candidate that fits our requirements, we are uplifted by the increased interest. We expect God will deliver a qualified candidate soon.

The Call Committee has been hard at work since forming in February 2024. Some of our progress over the last 14 months includes:

- 19 committee meetings
- 12 updates to the council
- 14 updates to the congregation (communicated either in verbal announcements or the monthly newsletter)

Additionally, as chair of our Call Committee, I have taken part in 13 monthly Zoom meetings with Pastor Jen Beamsley from the synod along with other call committee chairs.

On behalf of the committee, we sincerely thank you for your continued support as we continue our work to find our next senior minister.

Jack Wilson, Call Committee Chair

PATHWAYS Offerings

Open Door Prayer / May 1

PATHWAYS invites you to a time of prayer, meditation and stillness at *Open Door Prayer*. On Thursday the 1st from 5-7 pm, you are welcome to stop out to CLC and choose to walk the labyrinth, browse through books about peace, take inspiration from nature, pray, meditate or simply enjoy the quiet. Come when it's convenient and stay as long as you like -- the time and space is yours for the choosing in lieu of a structured prayer service. Come and seek peace in a sacred space and peaceful environment.

Mandalas & Mantras for Self-Love / May 31

Create vibrant mandala art while exploring the power of mantras— positive affirmations that promote self-love and mindfulness. This creative process helps release tension, ease anxiety, and refocus on what brings joy and peace. No experience needed—just an open heart and a desire to create in a supportive, relaxing space.

Join us from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturday, May 31. A \$25 registration fee includes materials and snacks. Register at seekthepath.org.



In the CLC Family

We express our condolences to the families of CLC members Larry Salley who died April 9, and Bradley Becker who died April 19. May light perpetual shine on them. +

Newcomers Orientation

Have you been visiting and worshipping with CLC for a while and want to learn more? Come to the next Newcomers Orientation on Sunday, May 4 at 10:15 am to learn about our community life together and meet with congregational leaders. Please call the CLC office or contact Jeff Bieck, chair of the Evangelism Committee, by May 1 if you plan to attend.



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

ALWAYS A BEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

New members will be received May 25. We look forward to welcoming new friends to the CLC Family.

May 4

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 11

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 18

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 25

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5
John 14:23-29

Service & Outreach

It's that time again, folks...time for the Peanut Butter Rally! This year, in addition to peanut butter, we will collect can openers for Empower Boone. Many of the donated canned products it receives do not have pop tops, which means they require an opener. Let's see how many can openers we can collect during the month of May!

Education Only a few Sundays left for **Godly Play**. We'll meet for learning and fun on May 4 & 18.

Adult Forums have come to an end for this program year. We look forward to offering more great sessions in the fall!



Kids Camp

We've mapped our itinerary, plotted our course, filled the tank and packed our goodies... all systems are go for this summer's most fun and exciting week at **ROAD TRIP Kids Camp!**

All children ages 3 through current 5th graders are invited to join us June 23-27 (Monday-Friday) from 5:30 to 8 pm. Our time will include a light supper to begin the evening, music, lessons, games, and much more as we see where God leads us on our journey together. For our last night on June 27, Kids Camp families will join us for a fun celebration.

Online and in person registration begins May 4. And did we mention it's FREE?! Invite everyone you know—family, friends and neighbors — to this time of learning and playing.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are still needed to help. A variety of opportunities are available. We do hope you will lend a hand — helping our kiddos grow closer to God is a worthwhile investment and some of the best time you'll have all year. Contact Shirley Collins, Kids Camp Coordinator, with questions or to help.

Christ in Literature

Join us Monday, May 5 as we plan which books we'll read and discuss during the 2025-2026 program year. Bring your suggestions! The planning fun starts at 3 pm in the conference room.

Financial Update

through March 31, 2025

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 142,280
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 159,734
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 111,346
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 48,388

Thank you for your generous and continuous support of Making Christ Known.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer



Christ Lutheran

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makingChristknown.org

facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere

Also on Facebook, search:

Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 9:00 am

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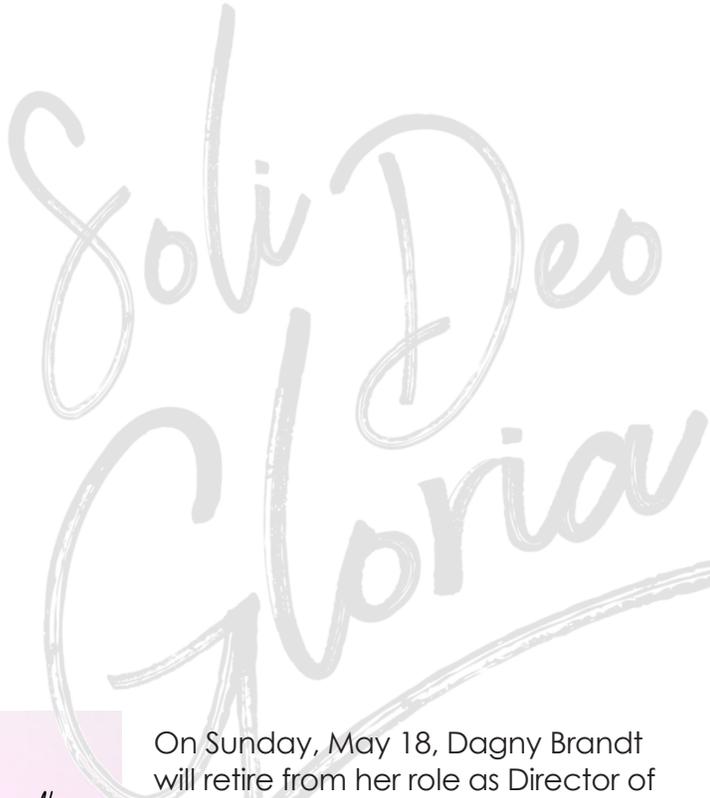
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Council

Jenny Campbell	President
Howard Yahey	Vice President
Shirley Collins	Secretary
Elizabeth Brinkley	Treasurer
Jenny Breckenridge	Council Member
Brad Cooper	Council Member
Scott Herring	Council Member
John Herring	Council Member
Peter Hightower	Council Member
Lori Murphy	Council Member
Don Skadow	Council Member
Gil Stansell	Council Member

Our Staff

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



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION *for Dagny Brandt*

May 18
following 9am worship

On Sunday, May 18, Dagny Brandt will retire from her role as Director of the Spirit Singers. Her music ministry has spanned four decades serving in various congregations and educating countless children. In gratitude for her years at CLC and the greater church, we will host a farewell celebration on Sunday, May 18 following worship. We encourage everyone to attend worship that morning and wish Dagny "happy retirement" from music ministry. A card basket will be available.

*All praise for music, deep gift profound,
through hands and voices in holy sound;
the psalms of David, and Mary's praise,
in wordless splendor and lyric phrase,
with all creation on song we raise:
Soli Deo Gloria*

