

The latest of my creations are stacked on my kitchen counter, as I haven't found a place to store them yet. I have taken three pottery classes in Rockford, and each time I learn something more. I'd like to share with you what I have learned:

**“Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.**

Jeremiah 18:6

1. Wedging the clay is the first step. The clay is kneaded and thrown to eliminate air bubbles. It also warms the clay up to be put on the wheel. Sometimes we feel like the clay, being thrown around and kneaded, being prepared to grow.
2. Centering the clay is the most important part. If the clay isn't centered, it's more difficult to work with. It's important to feel centered in your spiritual life as well.
3. Start the pulling process to create the walls of the item. I have strong violinist hands and quickly learned there is such a thing as using too much strength and pressure in this step. This is the step where I fail most. Sometimes, less pressure is more when it comes to growing in our faith, especially the pressure we place on ourselves.
4. Allow the piece to dry slowly. Trim when the clay is too wet and you might reshape the piece accidentally. Sabbath rest is important in all of our journeys.



*Deacon Laura's hand-crafted pottery works*

5. Trim the piece, making final changes to its shape. After trimming, the first firing begins, after which you cannot make the clay moldable any longer.
6. Glaze your piece. Glazes look very different when applied after firing. Combining glazes will change the look of the final piece. Sometimes, our best laid plans don't work out. The piece may look entirely different at the end than you thought it would look at the start of the process. This is okay. Our journeys may all look differently than we first expected.
7. Working with clay is messy – you will get dirty. You may end up with clay in your hair, and you will definitely end up with clay on your clothes at one point. Sometimes, our faith journeys are messy too. But God, the potter who molds us, continues to work with us, accompany us, and support us on the way. And for that, I say THANKS BE TO GOD!



*Deacon Laura*

## In this issue

In the CLC Family **P2** Christ in Literature **P2** Welcome, New Members **P2** PATHWAYS **P2**  
Adult Forum **P3** Blood Drive **P3** Immigration/Refugee Support **P3**  
Thank You **P3** Young Adults **P4**



Lori & Trent Johnson



Ruth Snyder

## Welcome, New Members!

Welcome to the following persons who joined our congregation on Sunday, January 2:

**Trent & Lori Johnson**

**Ruth Snyder**

**Trudy Stockham**

**Adrian Vasquez**

Take a moment to welcome and become acquainted with these new members of the Christ Lutheran family!



Trudy Stockham



Adrian Vasquez

## In the Christ Lutheran Family

Congratulations to Steve Larsen, who was given the lifetime title of Music Director Emeritus of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra (RSO) at his final concert last month at the Coronado! Steve retired after 30 years of service with RSO.

## Christ in Literature

### February 7

Join us as we discuss Eric Larson's book, *The Devil in the White City*. This book tells the story of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. It tells the story of the designers of the event, as well as the story of H.H. Holmes who is often credited as the first modern serial killer.

Looking ahead to March, our next book study is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly.

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

## PATHWAYS presents...

**JOINING HANDS: A NEW PATH FORWARD** will be held on Saturday, February 26, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. by Deacon MaryAnn Schwabe. This event will help us to strengthen relationships. As we manage change while moving ahead, we are called to mature and less anxious relationships that handle differences, allow thoughtful listening, and help us to deal with difficult topics and decisions. In our congregations as within all our lives, the way we treat one another is the significant factor in witness and service. This event will be held via Zoom; although, non-Zoomers are invited to join us in the West Wing to participate together.

Deacon MaryAnn is the ELCA Executive for Synod Relations and the ELCA Systems Academy Coordinator at the church-wide office in Chicago.

## More Pathways . . .

Mark your calendars now for our March event. Marci Madary returns to PATHWAYS on March 26 to lead participants in an Enneagram event focused on strengthening both office and interpersonal relationships.

More information coming soon!

**PATHWAYS**  
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



### February 6, 2022

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

### February 13, 2022

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

### February 20, 2022

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

### February 27, 2022

Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



## Growth & Service Opportunities

### Adult Forum Series: WHO NEEDS GOD?

Beginning on February 6, we will host a new four-week adult forum series on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. People are migrating away from religion at an unprecedented rate – Christianity in particular. There was a time when people believed religion offered solutions. Today, many view religion as the problem. Author and pastor, Andy Stanley addresses this tension and helps us set up a foundation for faith that will stand up to the rigors of the real world. Join us, and bring your questions!

### Blood Drive:

Mark your calendars! Our next blood drive will be Tuesday, March 1. Sign up in the gathering space beginning February 6, or [click this link to access the RRV Blood Center's online registration](#).



## Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)

This month, the Service and Outreach team continues its collection of monetary donations for the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). LIRS has been helping to welcome the most vulnerable to the United States since 1939, when it helped to resettle 30,263 displaced persons from Germany and Eastern Europe. They continue to respond to the needs of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in many ways with the help of more than 6,000 volunteers nationwide and more than 100 local affiliates. They offer refugee resettlement programs, foster care for refugee and migrant children who arrive unaccompanied, family reunification programs, leadership and economic empowerment programs for new Americans, and programs that help support individuals both during and after immigration detention.

## THANK YOU FROM THE CHRIST LUTHERAN STAFF!

Dear friends in Christ,

We are so privileged to serve alongside each of you. Receive our deepest gratitude for the most generous staff Christmas gifts, and know that we have received them as reminders of our common privilege to serve Christ's church and his calling to make his name known. We look forward to another year of shared ministry with each of you.

*Peace,*

*Craig, Dagny, Chris, Deacon Jennifer, Katie, Michelle, Deacon Laura, and Pastor Twila*

thank you  
MERCI *gracias*  
*grazie*





425 Riverside Road  
Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-885-2522  
[www.makingChristknown.org](http://www.makingChristknown.org)

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### Our Council

Al Francik  
Lee Blackburn  
Diane Peters  
Sue Hunter  
Ken Erboe  
Tari Flack  
Mike Meinert  
Syd Nolan  
Denise Rindels  
David Swanson  
Shari Warmoth

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member

+

#### Our Staff

Pr. Twila Schock  
Deacon Laura Gorton  
Deacon Jennifer Fox  
Michelle Nelson  
Katie Belinson  
Dagny Brandt  
Craig Carlson  
Chris Parkinson

Senior Minister  
Associate Minister  
Minister for Worship & Music  
Finance & Office Administrator  
Communications Assistant  
Church Musician  
Church Musician  
Church Musician

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Rockford, IL  
Permit No. 521

## Young Adults at CLC

An exciting 2022 calendar of events is planned for CLC's Young Adult Group. Update your calendar app now!



**Brunch & Bible Study:** Fourth Sundays the next four months (Feb. 27, March 27, April 24 and May 22), Noon at CLC. Lunch provided for the first few gatherings.



**Bowling at the Cherry Bowl:** Friday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. Pizza and pop provided. Please RSVP to Allie Carlson by Sunday, March 6.



**Games and Tacos:** Friday, May 6. We'll celebrate Cinco de Mayo a day late! Hosted by Cassie & Matt Turner. Time TBA. RSVPs requested by May 1.



### Gardens & River Walk:

Tues, July 12 OR Fri, July 15. Walk with us along the Rock River and Sinnissippi Gardens followed by Food Truck Tuesday or City Market.



### Edward's Apple Orchard:

Saturday, September 17 at 12:30 p.m. Fall fun!



### Halloween Party:

Saturday, October 29. Tricks and treats likely at this festive event. Time and location TBA.



### Christmas Lights Outing:

Friday, December 9. Come and explore the lights at Sinnissippi Park and Gardens. Time TBA.