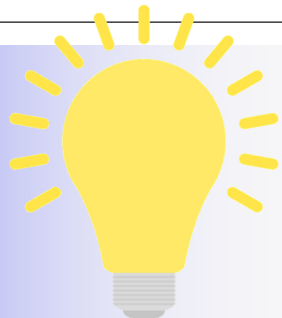


January 2022

Volume 30 / Issue 1

Sharing Mission/Ministry/Life in Christ

Following the Light



January 6 is the feast of Epiphany and marks the end of the Christmas season. It is the day in the church year when we celebrate the revelation of God's glory in the person of Jesus Christ. We also remember the Magi's visit to Jesus and his family. I love celebrating Epiphany for several reasons.

On Epiphany, we are reminded that the magi followed the Star of Bethlehem's great light to find Jesus. The light shone in the darkness of the night, leading the way to the child that would be called the light of the world. During the season following Epiphany, we hear stories of the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

As the light of the world, Jesus shone light onto places of darkness – places where those who were outcast and marginalized struggled, and where those who had physical and mental infirmities begged for healing and acceptance. Jesus came for the world to turn upside down – for the hungry to be fed, the blind to see, the lame to walk, and for those without power to become powerful while those with power would lose theirs. The light of Christ which resides in each of us through the waters of baptism reveals who we are: the claimed and washed children of God. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ and to share the good news of God's love to all people.

Christ ALIVE!

Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus
Jesus Jesus

While there are many ways to celebrate this holiday, one of my favorite ways to celebrate Epiphany is to do a house blessing. We gather together and bless the various places of the house for the coming year, and give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed on us. It is a beautiful ritual at the start of a new calendar year.

Deacon Laura



In this issue

In the CLC Family **P2** Christ in Literature **P2** Newcomers **P2** Year-End Gifts **P2**
Adult Catechism Class **P3** Young Adult Group **P3** Immigration/Refugee Support **P3**
Hope for the Holidays **P3** Blood Drive **P4**



In the Christ Lutheran Family

Congratulations to CLC member, Sheryl Thorgerson, who was recently elected to serve as the Executive Director of Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries. Sheryl will be installed to her post at 2:00 p.m. on January 16, at CLC.

Thank you to Jim and Colleen Hanson, and all of the Men of Christ, for hosting a wonderful Christmas party! *(photos inset left)*

Christ in Literature

January 3

Join us for our annual movie afternoon! We will watch the film, "The Way," starring Martin Sheen. It follows the story of a man who travels to Europe to retrieve the remains of his adult son who died while walking the *Camino de Santiago*, a pilgrimage in Spain. He decides to walk the ancient spiritual trail where his son died, taking his son's ashes with him. Along the way he meets other pilgrims on their own journeys of growth and works through the grief of losing his son. The film will start at 3:00 p.m. and runs a little more than two hours.

February 7

Join us as we discuss Eric Larson's book, *The Devil in the White City*. It is a non-fiction book that takes place in Chicago during the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

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

Newcomers Orientation

*Are you a recent newcomer to Christ Lutheran?
Have you recently joined our community of faith?
Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about CLC?*

We are hosting a newcomers' luncheon and orientation in the west wing on Sunday, January 2, at 11:00, where we will share a bit of our ministries and answer questions you may have. To register your attendance, contact either Pastor Twila or Craig Carlson.

Tax Tip from your Treasurer



If you're taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA, those dollars are typically taxed as ordinary income. The good news: If you're over 70½, you can direct all or part of your RMD, up to \$100,000, to a qualified charity – like CLC – and it will be excluded from your income. No need to itemize! This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD, and can make a difference on your tax bill.

Note: Custodians do not identify QCDs on Form 1099-R, so tell your tax preparer. Consult your financial advisor to determine which tax strategies are best for you.

End of Year Gifting

If you are seeking year-end-gifting opportunities, you may wish to consider the following ministries at Christ Lutheran: our Mission Endowment Fund, our PATHWAYS Center, our MOSAIC Ministry, Evangelism, Outreach, our General Fund, our Building Fund, or a passion of your choosing. Contact Pastor Twila for an appointment if you are called in this way.

January 2, 2022

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 9, 2022

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16, 2022

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 30, 2022

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Growth & Fellowship Opportunities

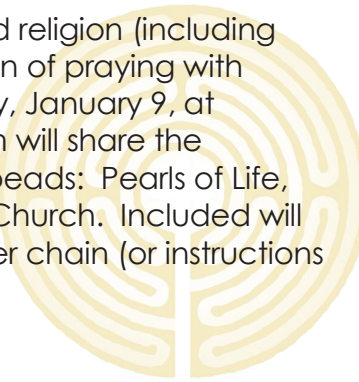
Adult Catechism Class: It's not too late to join our upcoming Adult Catechism class! If interested in learning more about Lutheranism, contact Deacon Laura. The class will consist of eight to nine sessions. Time is still TBD.

Young Adults: Keep your eyes glued to the weekly eblast announcements for upcoming young adult gatherings and bible studies. More details to follow!



Pearls of Life

Did you know that every major world religion (including Protestant Christians) have a tradition of praying with beads? Join Adult Forum on Sunday, January 9, at 9:30 a.m. when our PATHWAYS Team will share the Protestant tradition of praying with beads: Pearls of Life, originating in the Swedish Lutheran Church. Included will be a prayer guide as well as a prayer chain (or instructions to make your own).



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)

During the months of January and February, the Service and Outreach team will collect 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.

Results

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season! We were able to have some big impacts with local organizations; here are some of the totals from this year's donation drive:

- **Pies for Rockford Rescue Mission:** \$611.31 raised + \$250 Thrivent Action Grant purchased 65 pies
- **Meal-in-a-Bag for Empower Boone:** \$1849.84 raised + \$250 Thrivent Action Grant was donated to the organization to purchase food
- **Adopt-an-Angel for LSSI:** \$1575 raised + \$250 Thrivent Action Grant went to purchase 60 Target gift cards & gift bag materials
- **Adopt-a-Home for MOSAIC:** \$675 raised + \$250 Thrivent Action Grant went to purchase individual gifts for clients living at the Minns home. Additional funds donated to provide catered meals for clients and staff on Christmas.

Donations received after the deadlines were donated to the organizations through a CLC check. **Thank you for your generosity!**





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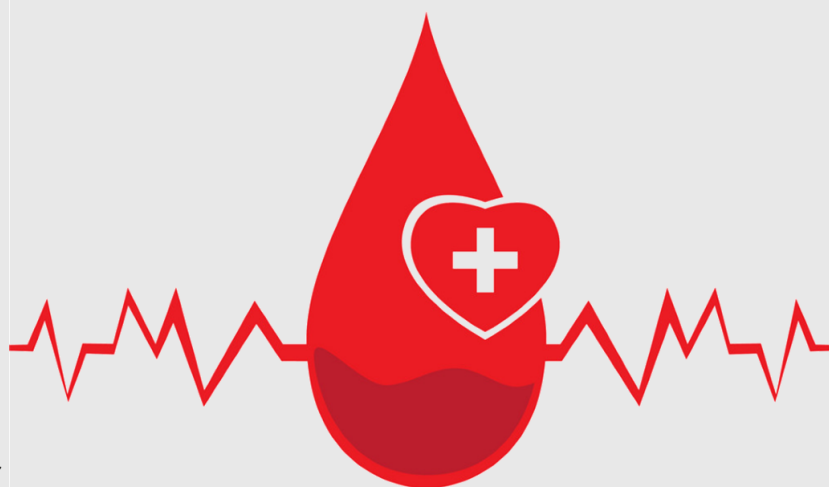
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A Gift that Lasts a Lifetime

Blood Drive

CLC's next blood drive is Tuesday, January 4. Sign up to bring food, volunteer your time, help set up or clean up, or donate blood in the gathering space. You may also schedule an appointment online to donate blood [using this link](#). For those wanting to mark future CLC blood drives in your 2022 calendars, the dates are: January 4, March 1, April 26, June 21, August 30, and November 1.



Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER
Straight From the Heart

