

Sharing
Mission,
Ministry,
& Life
in Christ

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Pressing Pause

The season of Lent echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert before the start of his public ministry. It begins on Ash Wednesday, as we are reminded of our mortality. The season ends on the first of three days leading up to the Easter Vigil, where we hear the wonderful acclamation of Jesus' resurrection.

There are noticeable shifts in our life together as a community of faith during Lent. Sunday worship will begin with confession and forgiveness, followed by the ministers processing to the front in silence. We will not use the word "Alleluia" and the baptismal font will remain empty. Our Wednesday night schedule will shift slightly to allow time for fellowship over soup suppers, education, and an evening vespers service.

Each year this season invites us to press pause and reflect. For some, it is a season to fast from something, like chocolate or dessert, rich foods or alcohol. Some may try to break bad habits like spending too much time on social media or electronic devices, or not moving our bodies enough throughout the day or week.

For others, it is the opportunity to expand on spiritual practices. People may aim to pray or read scripture daily, spend time in silence or stillness, or perhaps journal regularly. Whatever changes you make — whether it is taking away or fasting from something or adding something to your habits and routine — I invite you to enter Lent with a renewed sense of connecting with the divine. As we journey towards the cross, may we strive to reflect on the many gifts in our lives and give thanks for God's continued guidance, especially in the season of pastoral transition. Thanks be to God!

Deacon Laura

Lenten Wednesdays

Ash Wednesday is the official start of Lent. Join us for worship, which includes Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes, on March 5 at 7 pm. Our Lenten Wednesday evenings begin on March 12 and run through April 9. Each week will follow this schedule:

4:45 pm	Spirit Ringers rehearsal
5:30 pm	Soup Supper
6:10 pm	Lenten Education
6:45 pm	Evening Vespers
7:15 pm	Spirit Singers rehearsal

Devotions

Regular and large print Lenten devotions are available on the table near the front entrance. Each day provides a portion of a reading from the Easter Vigil, as well as a quote to ponder, a brief reflection with questions, and a prayer. The book begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5) and ends on Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil (April 19). Pick up your copy today!



a 24 hour prayer vigil
March 14-15
PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

PATHWAYS
 A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE

(virtual) Prayer Vigil
 Praying for the World / March 14-15

As war and violence rage and environmental disasters persist, people are experiencing unsettling and traumatic situations across the globe. Join PATHWAYS as we unite our hearts in prayer for the world. Sign up for 30 minute prayer time slots (or share a slot with a friend) and pray in the comfort of your home as we lift up siblings in Christ into God's loving care. Prayer guides will be provided.

A group prayer service via Zoom begins and ends this event at 6 pm on both March 14 & 15. Register at seekthepath.org.



Healing Service

Join us for a brief time of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing on Sunday, March 30 following worship. This service will be held in the choir loft area of the sanctuary.

In the CLC Family

Christ Lutheran received two new families into membership on February 2. We are so pleased to welcome the Ertmer and Lopez-Wefel families to our church family. Blessings to you!

Wes & Morgan Ertmer, Lottie



Julio Lopez & Lindy Wefel, Adrizbeth, Indie & Eliana



New Lay Leaders

At the Annual Meeting on February 2, the following lay leaders were elected. Thank you for your service to Christ Lutheran.

COUNCIL

- Elizabeth Brinkley (treasurer)
- Brad Cooper
- Scott Herrig
- John Herring (new term)
- Peter Hightower (new term)
- Lori Murphy (new term)
- Gil Stansell

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Ron Cox

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Margie Belmont
- Bill Blackburn
- Anna Borchers
- Wendell Larson
- Denise Rindels
- David Swanson

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- Steve Larsen
- Gwen Sommerfield

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

DELEGATES

- Diane Larsen
- Paul Larsen

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

ALTERNATES

- Jack Wilson
- Janet Wilson

March 2

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

March 9

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

March 16

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philemon 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

March 23

- Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

March 30

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Education Sunday morning Adult Forums will host a variety of organizations that received a Mission Endowment Fund grant last year.

March 2	Gifts of Discipleship	March 30	Mosaic
March 9	Empower Boone	April 6	Rockford Interfaith Community Garden
March 16	LSSI		
March 23	Habitat for Humanity		

Lenten Wednesdays will include a brief class on the history of various practices that help people connect with God and their spirituality.

Godly Play will meet March 2, 16, and 30. It's a full month of learning!

Service & Outreach

During the season of Lent (March 5-April 19), we will be collecting donations for ELCA World Hunger through its *Good Gifts* program. Look for a catalog and donation slip in the gathering space.

A Fond Farewell from Dagny Brandt (edited for length)

Music Ministry has been an integral part of my life – it completes me. My first memory of worship music was sitting in the front row in a rural North Dakota church when I was 3. I would “sing” the hymns and liturgy at the appointed times as dad preached and mom played the organ. For the past 60 some years my church music roles have varied, but church music and music ministry are deeply woven into the fabric of who I am. I have been keenly aware of the responsibility to share my God-given musical gifts.

After much prayer and discussion with family and colleagues, I have decided that the time has come for me to retire from a majority of my commitments both at Christ Lutheran Church and Highland Community College. Please accept this letter as formal notice of my retirement from my position of Spirit Singers Director effective at the end of the choir season (May 2025).

It has been a privilege to direct the CLC Spirit Singers for the past four years and share in music ministry with Jennifer, Chris, and Craig. I have worked in many church settings, and this is a wonderful place to wrap up my career. The staff at Christ Lutheran sets a high bar for excellence, caring, support and service. Jennifer has been a blessing to me. From day one I felt welcomed and part of the team. I am thankful for her creative genius, vast knowledge of church music, friendship and support of me and my work. Chris and I have worked together even longer, and I will hold dear the many wonderful worship moments that we have shared. I will genuinely miss everyone here. It has been a privilege to direct the Spirit Singers and get to know this dedicated group. They also welcomed me with open arms and have worked so hard to share God's love and promises through music at CLC and out in the world.

It is hard to believe that I am finishing my 40th year of teaching and music ministry, and that the time has come to retire. However, health and family changes (I'm going to be a grandma in February!) have helped me come to this decision. Again, I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to end my career on a high note at CLC! I will remember with joy and fondness the many worship and fellowship experiences I have shared with the Spirit Singers, the CLC staff and congregation. I will continue to pray for the music ministry at Christ Lutheran Church as we all continue to go out to sing His praises and share His love.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Dagny Brandt

Join us on Sunday, May 18 as we celebrate Dagny's music ministry and wish her Godspeed.

Easter Flowers

To sponsor plants and beautify our Easter worship service, sign up to order Easter flowers. Cost is \$18 per plant with checks payable to CLC (memo line "Easter flowers"). Order forms will be available March 9, with orders and payments due March 30.

Christ in Literature

Join us March 3 at 3 pm as we discuss Percival Everett's novel, *James*, which explores *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of enslaved Jim. [Note: The book originally scheduled for March, Amy Tan's *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, will be discussed in April.]

Reminder

As we live in community, we want to be good stewards of the wonderful building that is our CLC home. Please remember to properly dispose of trash into waste cans. Any leftover liquids can be poured down a sink drain. Please also make sure to wash dishes or place them in the dishwasher at any time other than Sunday morning. This helps to contain messes and keep critters at bay. Thank you for your cooperation!




Christ Lutheran

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Phone: 815-885-2522

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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Council Member

Our Staff

Deacon Laura Gorton

Deacon Jennifer Fox

Katie Belinson

Dagny Brandt

Michelle Nelson

Chris Parkinson

Acting Interim Minister

Minister for Worship & Music

Dir. of Outreach & Communications

Church Musician

Finance & Office Administrator

Church Musician



Let's go Hogs!

Join Men of Christ at the Rockford IceHogs game on Friday, March 7. The puck drops at 7 pm. Tickets cost \$28 (children 2 years and under are free). Reserve your seats by March 2. Payment due at time of sign up. See the display in the gathering space or [sign up online](#).

All are welcome to this fun family outing with Hammy and friends! See you at the BMO!

When: March 7

Where: BMO Harris Bank Center
398-300 Elm Street, Rockford

Deadline: March 2

Cost: \$28