

Sharing
Mission,
Ministry,
& Life
in Christ

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The Great Three Days

Each year, as we close the end of the Lenten season, we journey through the great Three Days. The *Triduum* refers to the three days of Holy Week which focus on Christ's passage from death to life—Maundy Thursday through the Easter Vigil. The worship services are meant to flow from one day to the next.

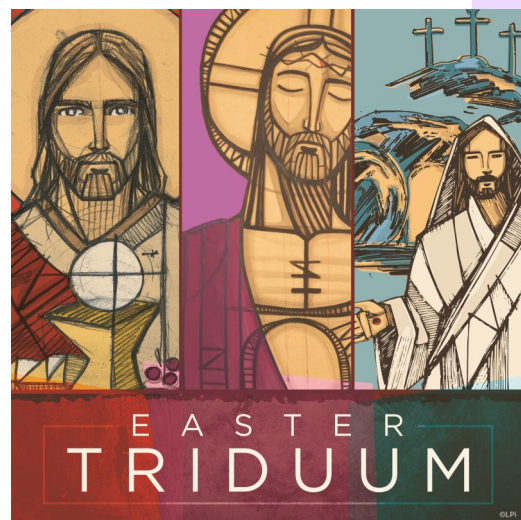
First of the Three Days is Maundy Thursday. Washing of feet, a sign of Jesus' servanthood, is offered as a reminder of the servant call for every follower of Jesus. We gather around the table to recall the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest. The service concludes with a stripping of the altar, which is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation by his Roman captors. Candles are extinguished; sacramental elements and vessels removed; linens, paraments, and all other furnishes are carried out of the worship space. We depart the empty sanctuary in silence.

Good Friday begins in silence. This worship service includes some of the most ancient traditions of Christian worship, such as the bidding prayer. We hear the story of Jesus' passion and respond in song. Sometimes candles are extinguished after each reading, darkening the space as the time of Jesus' death grows closer. The bidding prayer includes time for silent prayer by the congregation. The solemn reproaches, which date back to at least the 9th century, begin with Christ expressing a specific act or sacrifice he has made for humanity, followed by a question or lament about why he has been repaid with betrayal. The service ends in a darkened sanctuary as we depart once again in silence.

The Easter Vigil begins with a new fire lit on the prayer labyrinth. We bless the new Paschal candle and process into the church building. Individual candles are lit from the Paschal candle. We hear several readings, followed by time for reflection and prayer. During the adornment of the nave (what we lovingly call "Holy Chaos" here at CLC), all are welcome to help adorn the worship space with the things that were removed just two nights earlier. Fresh flowers are also brought in. The rest of the service looks very similar to a Sunday morning service. We give thanks for the gift of baptism, hear the prayers of intercession, share the peace with one another, and gather once again around the table for Holy Communion.

The Three Days are a special time of year. If you have not experienced all three services, I highly recommend you try them this year. Easter's power and joy has become so much greater for me since I started attending all three services of the *Triduum*.

Deacon Laura



Volunteer
Appreciation

APR 27 See pg 3
for info!

Women's Spring Retreat

April 26

Life today pulls us in many different directions. Work, family life, social calendars, and the endless news cycle all vie for our attention. Join PATHWAYS on Saturday, April 26 as we explore connections through ancient paths that have been walked by thousands of pilgrimages before. Our time together will include different practices to help us press pause, center ourselves in the present, and connect with the divine.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL hosts this event from 9am to 3pm. A \$30 registration fee includes snacks, lunch, materials and programming. Carpools from CLC to LOMC are available (call the church office). Visit nisynod.org/ministries/nis-women for details.

"Walking the Ancient Path" is presented as part of the annual retreat of the Northern Illinois Synod WELCA (Women of the ELCA).



Financial Update

through February 28, 2025

Budgeted Contributions YTD:	\$ 89,420
Actual Contributions YTD:	\$ 97,341
Actual Expenses YTD:	\$ 74,261
Net Surplus or (Loss)	\$ 23,080

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

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Brinkley, Treasurer

In the CLC Family

We express our condolences to the family of Mary Jo Schoening who died February 28. May light perpetual shine on her. +



Office Closed

To commemorate the Resurrection of Our Lord, the Christ Lutheran office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21.



Stations of the Cross

As part of CLC's Holy Week offering, our beautiful Stations of the Cross will be available in the sanctuary for private meditation during office hours from 9 am to 3 pm on Monday, April 14 through Wednesday, April 16. If the building is open any of those evenings, you are also welcome then. We give thanks for these tiles that poignantly illustrate Christ's walk to the cross.

Service & Outreach

We continue to gather donations for ELCA World Hunger's *Good Gifts* program. See the display in the gathering space. All donations are due on Palm Sunday, April 13.

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philemon 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 13

Luke 19:28-40
Readings from the Passion Story

April 20

Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12



April 27

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Volunteer Appreciation

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who keep CLC humming along. Office volunteers, teachers, musicians, worship ministry servers, building/grounds crew, caregivers...the list is too numerous to name. In this time of transition, we have especially noticed and been gratified by the dedication of our volunteers. We ALL are stepping up and honoring God through the work we do and roles we fill, and we think one good deed certainly inspires another. Surely our efforts have been blessed now more than ever.

To celebrate our volunteer ministry, join us following worship on April 27. We will enjoy a Volunteer Recognition Day with an enhanced fellowship time together. Everyone is a part of the CLC Family — all are invited!

See you for worship and stay for the celebration. We LOVE our CLC volunteers!

WE'LL SAY IT (AGAIN)...

CLC
VOLUNTEERS
STACK UP
AGAINST
ANYONE

Education

Adult Forum welcomes Deacon Cheryl Erdmann from Rockford Interfaith Community Garden on April 6. This wraps up our rotation of guest speakers from last year's Mission Endowment Fund grant recipients. There will not be any other Adult Forum sessions in April.

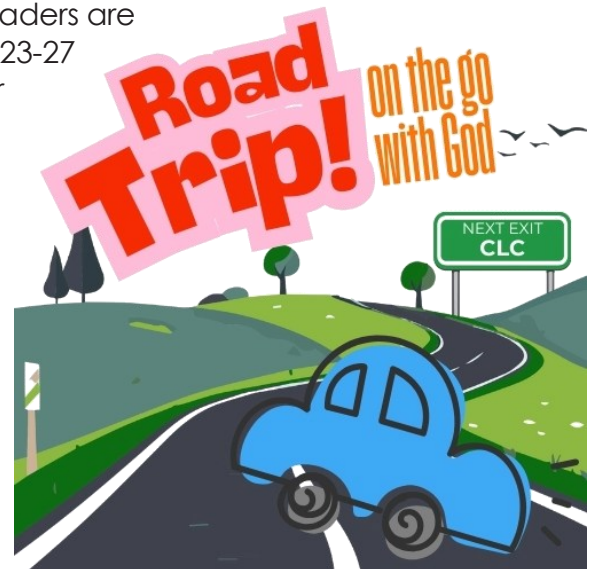
Lenten Wednesdays continue on April 2 & 9. Join us for 5:30 pm Soup Supper, 6:10 Education and 6:45 Evening Vespers. Deepen your Lenten journey with us.

For our young friends, **Godly Play** will meet April 13 & 27. Together we are deepening one another's faith through our storytelling, learning and playing. We can hardly wait!

Kids Camp (can't miss event!)

ROAD TRIP Kids Camp is coming, friends! All children ages 3 through current 5th graders are invited to join us June 23-27 from 5:30 to 8 pm. Our time includes a light supper each night.

Online and in person registration begins in May. Invite everyone you know—family, friends, neighbors. Kids Camp families join the fun on Friday, June 27 for a celebration (more details to follow).



Volunteers Needed: Games Leader, "Navigators" to guide groups between stations, registration folks (check-in & check-out), assistants at each station, and a decorating crew.

This is a great opportunity for kids and adults alike to see God at work and exercise our faith, all while having fun! Contact Shirley Collins, Kids Camp Coordinator, with questions or to help.

Christ in Literature

Join us April 7 for our last book discussion of the year as we look at Amy Tan's *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*.

Overwhelmed by the state of the world, Amy Tan turned toward the natural world in search of peace. This memoir includes drawings of the birds that visited Amy's yard. Discussion starts at 3 pm. **Mark your calendars** for our 2025-26 planning session — May 5 at 3 pm. Bring your book suggestions!



Christ Lutheran

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makingChristknown.org

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Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sundays 9:00 am

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Dagny Brandt
Michelle Nelson
Chris Parkinson

Acting Interim Minister
Minister for Worship & Music
Dir. of Outreach & Communications
Church Musician
Finance & Office Administrator
Church Musician



My Savior's Love Palm Sunday Cantata

Please join the Spirit Singers for the Cantata *My Savior's Love* on Palm Sunday, April 13. Through word and song we will journey through the events of Holy Week, remembering how God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to lay down his life for us and defeat death forever. How marvelous, and how wonderful is God's love for us!

Holy Week Services

APR 13 Palm Sunday **9am** Cantata

APR 17 Maundy Thursday **7pm**

foot washing and
Holy Communion

APR 18 Good Friday **7pm** readings, hymns
and prayers

APR 19 Easter Vigil **7pm** candles, readings and
Holy Communion

APR 20 Easter **9am** Holy Communion

Invite your kids, grandkids, and neighbors to join us Easter Sunday. There will be extra donuts, Easter bags for the kids, and an Alleluia celebration.

Christ is Risen!

