

Sharing
Mission,
Ministry,
& Life
in Christ

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Refreshment for a New Season

Towards the end of July, I made my way once again to the Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Maryland for the final residency of the *Going Deeper* program. Each day was spent with silent prayer and learning a new contemplative practice. We had morning and afternoon sessions with guest speakers, as well as daily peer group meetings where we processed the day's learning. We worshipped together to end each day.

The final residency seemed to fly by. Contemplative practices that seemed difficult during our first residency seem to be welcomed, sometimes craved, by my spirit. I left feeling refreshed and ready to return to ministry at CLC. My program, however, is not officially complete until October 15.

"What's next?" you may ask. I am still working on finishing the reading list from the program. Some of the materials will make their way into the Wayposts emails and posting. I will also need to do a final project.

One of the required readings of this program was Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*. As I listened to the audiobook, I found myself saying, "That sounds like where CLC is right now!"



Season of Transition.

I have decided to create a curriculum for congregations navigating the season of transition. I will be presenting this curriculum during the first six adult forum sessions this fall, beginning September 15. I invite you to attend, even if you don't normally, in order to help with this final project. Thank you for all of the support you have given me during this past year as I explored my own spirituality and leadership.

Deacon Laura

Healing Service

Starting this fall, Christ Lutheran will host a service of healing every month that has a fifth Sunday, beginning with September.

Join us for a brief service of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing following both the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services on Sunday, September 29. These services will take place in the choir loft area of the sanctuary.

Pastoral Coverage

Deacon Laura will be away from the office late August through September 4. If you are in need of pastoral care coverage while she is away, please call the office (or Jenny Campbell outside of office hours) to receive the contact information for the minister providing coverage.



Earth Church: A Creation Morning

To celebrate the season's splendor, join PATHWAYS for *Earth Church: A Creation Morning* in the scenic gardens of CLC on Saturday, September 28 at 10 am (this is a date change). Breathe in the sights and sounds of the fall morning. A time of worship and meditation, song, discussion on an earth centered psalm, litanies honoring the earth and walking the gardens. Led by Pr. Carol Soderholm and the Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Team.

Potluck lunch to follow. Beverages will be provided. Freewill offering received. Grab a friend and register today at seekthepath.org.



*in conjunction with the
Northern Illinois Synod Creation Care Team*

Next up: Pet Blessing, October 7

<p>September 1 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</p>	<p>September 8 Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146 James 2:1-10 [11-13] Mark 7:24-37</p>	<p>September 15 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38</p>	<p>September 22 Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37</p>	<p>September 29 Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22 Revelation 12:7-12 Luke 10:17-20</p>
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In the CLC Family

We express our condolences to the family of Harold Heeren who died July 31. May light perpetual shine on him. +

THANK YOU *The Brinkley Family wishes to express its gratitude for all your prayers, encouragement and support the past five years.*

There really are not adequate words to describe the care, love and support that this family of faith has shown our little family of six. It is amazing to be part of a community who accepts us completely in all of our brokenness and our challenges as well as all of our joys. On August 9, we were able to finalize the legal adoption of three children.

When Jason and I walked through the doors as a couple 13 years ago, we knew we had found a special place. Then a little over six years later we became a family of three and were wrapped in support and encouragement.

Three months into parenthood we were both hit with food poisoning. I needed my little one taken to daycare because we were in no shape to take him or give him the best care at the time. I called someone from church who lived nearby and who I served with on the Global Mission Team. She agreed to pick him up and take him to daycare. When she arrived she asked who was bringing him home later. Naively, I said that I was confident I would be well enough to pick him up. The response was that she hoped I felt much better but she would be happy to pick him up and bring him home. She arrived later that afternoon with Wyatt, chicken soup and banana bread.

Five years ago when we doubled in size overnight becoming six, you immediately wanted to know how you could support us. Meals came several times a week. The older kids asked why people were bringing us dinner. In a time of such uncertainty for these kids who had their lives turned upside down, hearing me tell them the food came because people cared for us and wanted to help showed the kids much needed encouragement and support.

I tell everyone who comments on the lives that Jason and I have built over the last 15 years together that it is all His plan and all of your prayers. I am a little biased, but our story of becoming a couple to a family of three to a family of six is an amazing one of faith, love and prayer. Christ Lutheran is definitely a prime example of where faith makes family! Thanks be to God and thank you!

Education

This year's adult education calendar is filled with many different topics! Check out some of the details below:

September & October: Between an Ending and a New Beginning: Bible Studies on Liminal Seasons (Deacon Laura's final project for her *Going Deeper* program)

November: Stewardship Celebration & History of Hymns

December: Faithful Risk Takers: Exploring the lives of those who risked it all for their faith

January & February: Living our Baptism: Claiming our new life in Christ

February & March: Evangelism: Sharing your Story and Finding your Voice in Christ

March & April: Mission Endowment Fund Grant Recipient presentations (Sunday mornings); Making Sense of Martin Luther (Wednesday evenings)

May: I've Been Meaning to Ask: Exploring Community (how to build, repair, and sustain it)

Also coming this fall — a fall book study on Rachel Held Evan's book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. Stay tuned for more info!



Godly Play

A new year of Godly Play begins September 29. We look forward to learning, laughing and growing with our young friends!

Music Ministry

There's room for you!

A new music ministry season kicks off this month at Christ, and we'd love to have you join our community. If you have a musical gift to share, please consider joining the Spirit Ringers and/or Spirit Singers! Choirs are open to 6th grade—adult.

We rehearse Wednesdays beginning on September 4.

Spirit Ringers (bell choir): 5:30-6:30 pm [*begins SEPT 18*](#)

Spirit Singers (vocal choir): 6:30-7:30 pm



Newcomers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Our next Newcomers Orientation will be held October 13 for those interested in learning more about CLC. Watch for more details soon.

Service and Outreach

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our summer sock drive. We look forward to delivering the socks to Rock House Kids early this month.

Financial Update *through July 2024*

Budgeted Contributions YTD	\$ 270,940
Actual Contributions YTD	\$ 307,598
Actual Expenses YTD	\$ 261,915
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 45,683

Please note this surplus is the result of a number of members already meeting their 2024 pledge, and, our Synod Mission Support being at the rate of 6% rather than our historical 15%.

Submitted by Jeff Bieck, Treasurer

Christ in Literature

Join us for our first Christ in Literature gathering of the 2024-2025 program year. We'll discuss Robert Dugoni's *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* on September 9 at 3 pm.

LOOKING AHEAD: The year is 1739 and Eliza Lucas is 16 years old. Her father leaves her in charge of their family's three plantations in rural South Carolina. Her family soon becomes in danger of losing everything. An incredible story of love, dangerous and hidden friendships, ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice based on historical documents, including Eliza's own letters. Join us as we discuss *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd on Monday, October 7 at 3 pm.



Christ Lutheran

425 Riverside Road / Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815-885-2522
makingChristknown.org

facebook.com/Christ.Belvidere

Also on Facebook, search:
Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

† **Worship:** Sunday 9:30 am (SEPT 1)
Sundays @ 8:00 & 10:30 am (starting SEPT 8)

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| 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 |

We hope to see you all at our job fair and ice cream sundae bar on Sunday, September 8. Join us in the West Wing at 9:15 am. Learn about upcoming programming for the 2024-2025 year, fill out a Time & Talent Form (if you haven't done so already), and enter to win some awesome prizes! Oh, and don't forget to have some ice cream!

We return to two services on September 8 at 8:00 & 10:30 am.

