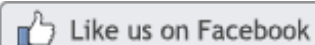


Greetings!

Welcome to Christ Lutheran e-news, a weekly electronic newsletter which highlights programs and activities of our congregation. Feel free to [share with family and friends](#).



Christ Lutheran Church

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Prayer Vigil

With a major election just a week away, the nation seems to be holding its collective breath, with fear, anger, hope and anxiety all pent up. No matter the outcome that any of us hopes for, there is concern for the unity of our country all around, and trepidation that there may be a contested outcome. What's a community of faith to do?

Christ Lutheran Church will do as has been done before in a time of national concern: we will hold a prayer vigil. Beginning at 7:00 a.m. next Tuesday, November 3, we are asking for partners in non-partisan prayer, around the clock, for 24 hours. We will begin and end the vigil at CLC, gathered in the name of Jesus, and gathered around the fire bowl, from 7:00-8:00 a.m. on each of the two days. Our time together will include readings from Scripture, as well as prayers for wisdom, for our nation, for justice, for our president, and for healing of divisions. If you would like to participate in either of those portions, please come appropriately dressed for the weather, and wearing a face covering.

If you are willing to commit to prayer for one or more blocks of a half hour or more, please watch for an invitation to do so. Some suggestions for readings and prayers are available [here](#).

Whether you sign up to pray or not, all are urged to pray that God's will for us may be done in us for the good of our neighbor.



Social Justice in Action

As members of Christ Lutheran Church, one of ELCA's AMMPARO *Welcoming Congregations*, Rolf Larson and Joyce Simon gathered with other folks this past Friday outside the offices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Burlington to rally in solidarity with a Guatemalan asylum seeker, Roberio Gonzalez, facing a deportation hearing.

They joined members of Lynn United for Change, ECCO (Essex County Community Organization), area clergy, and a North Shore interfaith coalition of Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ, and Jewish congregations to stand with Roberio Gonzalez.



When Gonzalez sought repairs for his family's deteriorating apartment, the landlord reportedly reported him to ICE. Rolf Larson captured on audio the words of the pastor (on Robelio's left in the photo), afterwards Robelio then speaks. Listen here: [Robelio Gonzalez 10/23/2020](#)

Later that afternoon Robelio was released wearing an ankle monitor and ordered to report again in 6 months. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Attorney General is pursuing unlawful eviction threats against the landlord.

As the newly-formed Social Justice Committee considers a recommendation from AMMPARO to become a sponsoring church for an asylum seeking family, we can see from our partnerships - with Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in El Paso, Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network (MISN) in Framingham, and our brothers and sisters on the North Shore - that we are allied with a host of faith communities seeking just decisions for those seeking legal asylum.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

We celebrate the festival of All Saints this coming Sunday, November 1, on the actual day! Perhaps no hymn captures the essence of All Saints better than "For all the saints" (ELW 422) and we'll be singing it this Sunday, all seven verses, as an Opening Hymn. Don't come late...

The text by William Walsham How (1823-97), joined so successfully to Ralph Vaughan Williams' (1872-1958) music, first appeared in The English Hymnal, published in 1904. Vaughan Williams named his tune Sine Nomine, that is, "without name." The music divides into two parts: vv 1, 2, 6 & 7, sung in unison and vv 3, 4 & 5 sung in four parts.

Chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews provides the biblical foundation of this hymn: a magnificent recounting of the saints and how they persisted through trials and tribulations to the end.

And what is faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see. It is for their faith that the [saints] of old stand on record...

And then, at the beginning of Chapter 12:

And what of ourselves? With all these witnesses to faith around us like a cloud, we must throw off every encumbrance, every sin to which we cling, and run with resolution the race for which we are entered, our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom faith depends from start to finish...

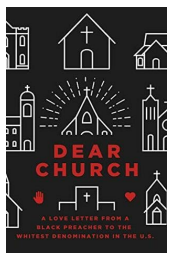
What a birthday party!

Fiona Ripp's story of her experience visiting Starfish International in The Gambia, Africa, was broadcast across the globe last Saturday evening as she celebrated her 18th birthday via a fundraising event hosted by Starfish. Over \$24,000 was raised to support this empowerment initiative for young girls. See [GoFundMe](#). Fiona and classmates from Natick High School were planning to host girls from The Gambia earlier this year, but the pandemic cancelled those plans. The fundraiser enables Starfish to continue to provide education and training to girls from throughout their African country.

Prayer vigil planning

Gail Weston-Roberts is busy phoning CLC youth about helping with a prayer vigil on November 3. Along the way she learned that Isaac Ripp will be helping out at a Natick polling station that day. Not only that; he is eligible to vote! If you are 18, you can vote too! Planning is underway for ways that youth can participate in the vigil. See the lead story of this week's Enews for more details.

Adult Formation



Adult Formation

Discussion of *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* continues this Wednesday, October 28, at 6:00 p.m.

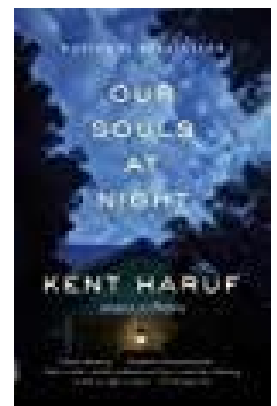
We'll be considering part 2, with Dave Ripp facilitating. Contact Pastor Bourret for a Zoom invitation.

CLC Book Group

The next CLC Book Group meeting is **Monday, November 2, 2020, 7:30 pm**. Our selection, *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf, is described as an "elegant, bittersweet, yet hopeful novel" of two longtime neighbors who have known each other for decades. Addie Moore's husband died years ago, as did Louis Walter's wife. They are both lonely with no one to talk to. Might they change that?

This tale of loneliness, isolation, and finding connection seems well suited to our current pandemic circumstances. How and where do we find solace?

If you are interested in joining us, contact Marianne Swenson
Mswenson10@comcast.net.



Call to Action

About half of the number of households who pledged last year have already made **pledges** for 2021. **Thank you!** If you have not yet made a pledge, please do so, this week if possible. The commitment to share a portion of your income for our shared ministry is an act of faith, and it is not a legal commitment, so if your circumstances change, your pledge can be changed, too. Having a good idea of the income we will have in 2021 helps the Finance and Property Committee to propose a responsible budget to the Congregation Council and, ultimately, the congregation.

Both pledge forms and Time and Talent forms are available on the website, in an email from Jeff Kinney,

and in the soon-to-be published November *Reporter*. Paper versions will also be mailed to anyone who requests one from with Jeff Kinney or the church office.

CLC shares 12%-a bit more than a tither-with the larger church (New England Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). Ever wonder where the money goes? [Take a look here.](#)



Chaplain Tiffany Spigarolo at Metrowest Medical Center has put out a call for prayer shawls and quilts. They truly do bring comfort to people facing medical challenges or death itself. From CLC member Susan Kane:

"When Lisa Kane was in ICU, CVU, & eventually hospice in 2019, Chaplain Tiffany Spigarolo at Metrowest Medical Center visited and got to know Lisa and her favorite color, PINK. The next day she arrived with a pink shawl which Lisa enjoyed for its color and its soft texture to touch. I sense it was important to all of us, even as she moved from one level of care to another. This all was pre-Covid, and we had support of staff and friends from her program and CLC throughout. Tiffany's reaching out to people who might be interested in creating comfort shawls now reminded me of how different it

is now with limited visitors. Something like the shawls could brighten someone's day just a little. I also remember Tiffany's comment when she brought the pink shawl, that her supply was low. There are different ways that we can help in this time of social distancing."

Looking Ahead

All Saints Day

This Sunday, November 1, as we observe All Saints Day, we remember the saints at rest, especially our loved ones who have died in the last year. If you would like names of loved ones to be included in the prayers on Sunday, please submit them to Pastor Bourret no later than Wednesday. Photographs may also be included.



[New website](#)

Even though we are unable to physically congregate, the new website is a great way to stay connected. Each day, a [Daily Reflection](#) is posted, for example. These are individually crafted meditation exercises to keep us heart-centered and spiritually focused. Check out the [calendar](#) for a list of ways to stay connected and engaged.

If the Covid lockdown means you are mailing your weekly contribution to the church, you can instead click on "Give Now" and donate online via Vanco, the service that currently processes the automatic withdrawals of some of our members. It is a secure site that takes out the worry out of fulfilling your pledge.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

22th Sunday after Pentecost - All Saints Day

November 1, 2020

Readings and Psalm

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Sing For Joy

Enhance your understanding of the weekly scripture readings by listening to [Sing For Joy](#) from St. Olaf College. The Sing For Joy radio program, produced by St. Olaf College, has a simple mission: to explore the weekly themes of Christian worship by providing the best in sacred choral music and thoughtful commentary. The musical performances eloquently "do the talking," while the concise remarks from host Pastor Bruce Benson illuminate the meaning of the texts.

Do you have information for our weekly e-news?

Please be in touch by [email](#) if you have news to include.

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