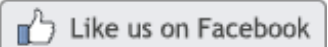


Greetings!

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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With Black Friday sales ads streaming into our inboxes, it's a good time to be reminded of some alternative Christmas giving options.

ELCA Good Gifts supports development work here in the USA and around the globe. Fill a child's backpack with food, fund a simple water well, provide a micro loan to a woman starting a business, provide a goat to a family...the options are seemingly endless, so you're sure to find one that speaks to your heart. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal also provides cards, so that those you honor with your gift know of your affection and gesture. Use this [link](#) to learn more and make your selections.

Announcements

SERRV Sale goes online! Another option is to purchase handmade goods from SERRV, yes, online this year.

Many of you have done some of your Christmas gift shopping at the SERRV sales we have held in the Parish Hall in past years. This year you can access all of these beautiful hand crafted gifts from around the world online. By using this [link](#) to place your order, you will help artisans around the world to receive a fair price for their work. In addition, 20% of your order will be donated back to Christ Lutheran Church. Use this [link](#) to browse the catalog and to place your order:

20% of your online order today will be donated to Christ Lutheran Church

Be sure you see this banner at the top of the webpage. If not, write in "Christ Lutheran Church" as your fundraiser. *Questions? Contact Celeste Larson*

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Now Thank We All Our God

Likely one of the most familiar hymns across the Christian church worldwide, "Now thank we all our God" speaks especially to the end times in the liturgical calendar. It also resonates directly with our current global pandemic experience. In 1636, hymn writer, Martin Rinkhart found himself as the only remaining pastor in the besieged town of Eilenburg, Saxony, a city of refuge for political and military fugitives from the raging Thirty Years War. The overcrowding of this walled city magnified the spread of the plague, especially in 1636-37, with over 4000 deaths, including Rinkhart's wife. At the epidemic's peak, Rinkhart conducted over 50 funerals a day. The hymn dates from this period. It's opening stanza offers thanksgiving, "Now thank we all our God." The second stanza is a prayer, "O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us." The concluding stanza is a doxology "All praise and thanks to God."

Composer, Johann Crüger provided the tune and included "Now thank we all our God" in his collection of hymns Praxis Pietatis Melica in 1647.

Many composers have used this text and tune as the basis for vocal, choral and instrumental works. Here is an audience sing-along with the Netherlands Bach Society of Bach's setting of "[Nun Danket Alle Gott.](#)"

Youth Notes

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth and Family Services Coordinator

Youth and parents of youth, per Gail's announcement at Sunday's 11/15 service, please check out her latest email about youth and family services updates!

Adult Formation

On the Sundays of Advent, plan to gather virtually with your CLC siblings for an Agape Meal, just before worship at 9:00 a.m. Plan a simple breakfast -- muffins or rolls and coffee, fruit and yogurt with tea, cereal and fruit juice, whatever suits you -- and join in prayer and song, Scripture, and holy conversation. While the pandemic has necessitated a fast from Holy Communion, God still feeds us!



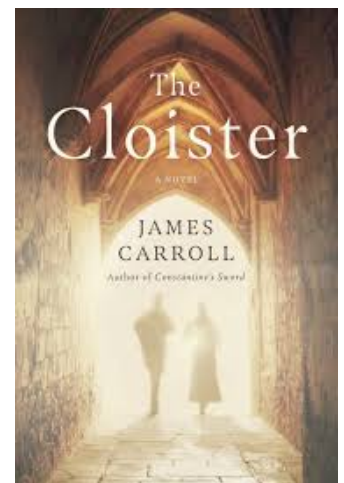
CLC Book Group

Monday, December 7, 7:30 pm

For its latest selection, the book group is reading *The Cloister*, James Carroll's compelling novel that moves from twelfth century Paris and the ill-fated love of Héloïse and Abelard to twentieth century New York and the developing friendship of Father Michael Kavanaugh and museum docent, Rachel Vedette.

"Spanning centuries and continents, *The Cloister* tells the story of four characters ahead of their time, questioning faith, identity, and love against a background of historical upheaval."

Contact Marianne Swenson, mwsenson10@comcast.net to be added to the meeting.



Call to Action

Saturday, December 5, 7:00 - 8:30pm



KEEPING THE PROMISE 2020

Join us for a night of inspirational seasonal music with Livingston Taylor, James Montgomery, Ellis Paul, Chris Trapper, Phil Stacy and many local favorites.

In place of our annual Keep the Promise gala, we are bringing our supporters together virtually to enjoy sounds of the season, hear from some of our families in our program and to continue keeping the promise to support families facing homelessness. Click here to [learn more about the concert and to register for the show](#).

Order take out dinner from one of our partnering restaurants, Burtons Grill in Framingham, call in your order 774-540-6005 or order online at Lombardo's To Go.

We also have our 20 for 20 Raffle to win \$5000 and our Keep the Promise Online Auction on November 23. Please join us in celebration on December 5th. It will be a fun, festive and inspiring evening and we hope to see you then.



CLC's scheduled Family Promise Host week is coming right up, November 22 - 29, 2020. In lieu of the many services we would normally provide, please consider donating "old fashioned" gift cards, not electronic, in small denominations (\$10 - 25) to any local grocery, pharmacy or general store. Suggested stores include Target, Walmart, and Stop and Shop. Gift cards should be mailed to Family Promise at 6 Mulligan St, Natick, MA 01760. You can also donate directly to FPM (<https://www.familypromisemetrowest.org/donate/>), who will purchase the gift cards for the families. Either way, make sure to indicate your donation is from Christ Lutheran and is intended for use during our scheduled host week, November 22-29. No donations of goods, prepared foods, or groceries, please. Many thanks to all for your continued support of this important ministry!



While our nation continues to wrestle with systemic racism, many perhaps wonder where to begin the hard work of wiping clean this deadly stain. Natick is United [NIU] is a local organization that brings people together to think and work locally. You're invited to the NIU late fall meeting this Thursday evening, 7:00pm to 8:30pm on November 19th. Click [here](#) to register.

Looking Ahead

We all miss gathering for worship in the nave, perhaps even more so as we approach Advent and Christmas. While we can't worship together, the Worship, Music and Visual Arts Committee is planning to offer time, space, and resources for personal meditation and devotion in the nave, which will be prepared for this season of hope.

In lieu of our usual caroling at the Morse Tavern, plans are underway for CLC's outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Hum-a-Long, Sunday, December 13. Watch for details!





Looking for a reason to get out of the house? Sometime before the beginning of Advent - the season begins on November 29 - the Worship, Music, and Visual Arts Committee would like every CLC household to receive a packet with items to bring us together in our observance of Advent and Christmas. We're pulling together a team of folks to make deliveries. Contact Phil Roberts or Pastor Bourret if you're willing to deliver in your area (no more than about 8 households, depending on CLC household density).

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2020

[Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#)

[Psalm 95:1-7a](#)

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

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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