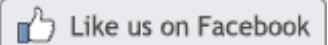


## Greetings!

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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### Tree Lighting and Carol Hum-a-Long

While we can't safely worship inside the nave this Advent and Christmas, we will be celebrating this season with a tree lighting and carol hum-a-long this **Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 p.m.**, outside, masked, and at a safe distance. After blessing and lighting the tree, we'll hum a few carols, and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies.

## Announcements



### Advent Hours for Meditation

The church nave, adorned for Advent with wreaths and banners, will be open for personal devotion and meditation Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during Advent. The hours are as follows:

**Tuesdays (December 8, 15, and 22): 2-4 pm**  
**Wednesdays (December 9, 16, and 23) 11-1**  
**Fridays (December 11, and 18) 5-7 pm**

If you would like to use this sacred space, and none of these times is compatible with your schedule, please contact Pr. Bourret to make other arrangements.

## In lieu of parsonage open house

Pastor Bourret and Jeff Kinney are disappointed not to be able to host their annual open house this year. In lieu of a gathering at the parsonage, the gift of a cow has been made in thanksgiving for the members and friends of CLC through ELCA Good Gifts. One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of calcium-packed milk each day. A family can receive the nutrition they need and also start a small business selling extra milk, cheese and more.



## Music for the season



The National Lutheran Choir offers a free virtual concert, "The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World" **Friday Evening, December 11th at 8:00pm.** Click [here](#) for more information.



## 7th Annual Virtual Interfaith Vigil

There are plans to hold a virtual interfaith vigil in memory of those lost to substance use disorder on **Sunday, December 13 at 7:00pm.** This is the annual event that has been held at the First Congregational Church in the past. This year the event will be held on zoom. Please contact [Sarallyn Keller](#) if you would like to be a part of this community event. It has been very meaningful to family and friends of both people lost to substance use disorder and those still living with it.

## Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

We welcome guest musicians soprano, Christine Jay and violinist Heidi Braun-Hill this **Sunday, Advent III, December 13.** Replacing the first reading, Christine and Heidi will offer some virtuoso singing and playing in Handel's brilliant aria "Rejoice, greatly, O daughter of Zion" (Zechariah 9:9-10). Christine and Heidi will also lead the Hymn of the Day, "Prepare a royal highway" ELW 264. Both artists have offered live music at CLC in the past. Christine most recently sang "virtually" on Easter Sunday. Heidi and her daughter Adelaide (a senior at Natick High School) will be playing music by Handel for violin and bassoon for the Prelude and Postlude.

## Youth

Calling CLC young people: On Christmas Eve, Christ Lutheran Church will gather by Zoom for a service of lessons and carols. We are looking for readers to offer several of the nine Scriptures that evening. Would you consider? Contact Gail Weston-Roberts or Pr. Bourret if you're willing to read one. Thank you!

## Adult Formation

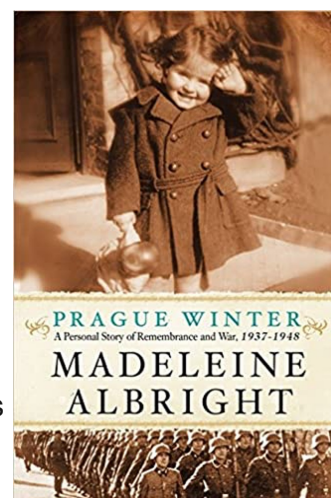


Two Advent Agape Meals remain this coming **Sunday, December 13** and the next **Sunday, December 20**. Watch for an invitation on Saturday, and gather virtually with your siblings in Christ for simple sustenance, music, prayer, and holy conversation. We begin at 9:00 and conclude no later than 9:45, in time for worship at 10:00 a.m.

### CLC Book Group

Monday, January 25, 7:30pm

"Before Madeleine Albright turned twelve, her life was shaken by the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, the country where she was born, the Battle of Britain, the near total destruction of European Jewry, the Allied victory in World War II, the rise of communism, and the onset of the Cold War. Drawing on her memory, her parents' written reflections, interviews with contemporaries, and newly available documents, Albright recounts a tale that is by turns harrowing and inspiring. *Prague Winter* is an exploration of the past with timeless dilemmas in mind and, simultaneously, a journey with universal lessons that is intensely personal." Goodreads.



## Call to Action



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

Another option for meaningful gifting:

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.



## Looking Ahead



There will be **two Christmas services this year**: a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m., and a Christmas Morning service at 10:00am more akin to our Zoom Sunday morning services.

Please think about whom you might invite to join us for these celebrations of God's coming to live with humankind, pandemics and all!

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Third Week of Advent  
December 13, 2020

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

**First Reading**  
Isiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**Psalm**  
Psalm 126

**Second Reading**  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel**  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

## 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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