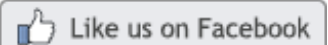


Greetings!

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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Giotto 1266-1337. *Birth of Christ* from Art in the Christian Tradition a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Has there been a year in recent memory when we more needed to know the divine love of Emmanuel-God-with-us? God is surely with us, and will lead us through this time of COVID and quarantine, our exile, and so we will celebrate and rejoice, even if in protest.

On **Christmas Eve**, we'll begin with **music at 4:30**, a prelude to a simple **service of lessons**, poetry and carols beginning at **5:00**. Music Director Tom Berryman has been working tirelessly with our choir and other singers and instrumentalists, and the Bell Choir adds their songs of praise as well. Several young members of Christ Lutheran Church will serve as readers. Plan to have a candle ready to light as we sing "*Silent Night*" or use the Moravian candle that was delivered at the start of advent.

On **Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.**, we'll worship around the Word made flesh, with a service much like our Sunday Zoom services, with readings, music, a sermon, hymns and prayers. If you haven't traditionally come to worship Christmas morning, maybe this is the year to make it a part of your celebration.

The easiest way to invite friends and family is to forward the email you receive with the Zoom link and bulletin; you may also request that these be sent directly by emailing the church office and Pr. Bourret, and including "Zoom link" in the subject line.

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:

Tuesday, December 22: 2-4 pm

Wednesday, December 23: 11-1

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.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director



Our CLC singers and players have been offering lots of music this Advent season, building towards a grand evening of music on Christmas Eve. Join us at 4:30 pm on **Christmas Eve for a Prelude Concert featuring bells, voices and instruments and some carol singing, too!** A Service of Lessons and Carols follows at 5 pm with plenty of opportunity to sing-a-long with the organ, string trio, guitar and bells. Tune in, via ZOOM, and invite some friends!

Adult Formation

We pause for Christmas. Watch this space next week for news of the book group and a new Sunday morning adult forum gathering **beginning January 10**.

The CLC Monthly Reporter

Thank you to the many of you who participated in the survey regarding the Reporter. It is so good to hear the many voices of committed members. We are still eager to hear from others about what features you would like to see included in future communications. [Click here for a quick survey of your interests](#) Please participate so we can have a critical mass of voices.

Please note that the [Worship Assisting Schedule](#) is always available on the website. You can access that information in advance at any time. We appreciate and hear your concerns about making sure we stay

connected to our members without email and/or computers. All of the information that would have gone out monthly in the Reporter will live on our website, be distributed through CLC google groups, or will be included in the weekly newsletter.

Call to Action



Homeless Jesus, Timothy P. Schmalz

Through our connections with MISN, we became aware of 'David' in early December. Six years ago, David was living in Worcester with his family. Although he was born in the US Virgin Islands (and therefore a US citizen), David was arrested by ICE, and ultimately held for six years in an Alabama detention center. He was released for reasons unknown on November 30 and provided transportation back to the Boston area. A small group of folks, including members of CLC, have been working to provide him the means to get back on his feet and, with help from Ascentria Care Alliance, to identify long-term housing in Worcester. With friends from other churches and organizations, we are hoping to be able to cover his basic expenses for three months, while he finds work and begins to re-imagine what it is to be free. We estimate that it will cost approximately \$2,400 for three months. The hope is that this will be shared by two or three congregations. David is very motivated to find a job, to begin working and to continue with his life. He just needs a little assistance to begin.

If you would like to contribute, contact Rolf Larson or Pr. Bourret.

Year end Giving opportunity

As 2020 comes to a close, this is a time to pause and reflect on all of the blessings that many of us continue to enjoy, in what can arguably be described as the most challenging external environment of our lifetimes. We are most appreciative of those who have faithfully supported our ministries this year through their ongoing pledges.

At the same time, we invite those who might want to make an additional or one time gift to CLC to do so in the coming week. Because we have been worshipping virtually for most of the year, our offering plate contributions are down this year. However, we have put in place a new website which has a very convenient on-line donation capability if you would prefer not to mail your check to the church.

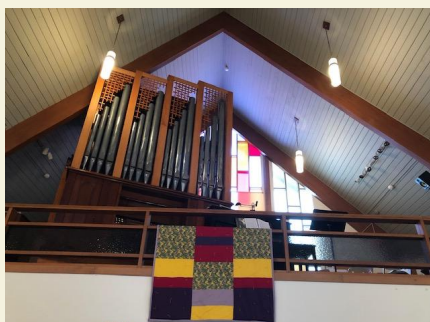
<https://christnatick.org/give-now/>

As many of you know, there is a one-time federal tax benefit for charitable contributions up to \$300 by 12/31/20, even if you take the standard deduction and do not itemize your deductions.

Finally, for those who are Thrivent members, please consider directing your Thrivent Choice dollars to CLC by year end. The link to the [Thrivent website](https://www.thrivent.com/) is here: <https://www.thrivent.com/>

Thank you to everyone who helps to support our ministries in so many ways!

Looking Ahead



Next **Sunday, December 27th**, Pr. Bourret will be on vacation, and in her stead a preacher of national reputation will bring the Word by way of video. Tune in to worship to hear The Rev. Jim Somerville, Co-Founder of A Sermon for Every Sunday and Pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church, proclaim the Good News.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

December 27, 2020

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule^l in your hearts,* and let the word of Christ dwell^l in you richly. *Alleluia.* (Col. 3:15, 16)

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm

Psalm 148

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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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