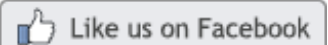


Greetings!

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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Thanks go to all who contributed to the Christmas worship services. Countless musicians contributed to a beautiful service of lessons, poetry, and carols on Christmas Eve. Generations of readers brought Scriptures and poetry to life, and images from over the centuries and across cultures and media enhanced the Word we heard in song and speech. What a gift you all brought to us.

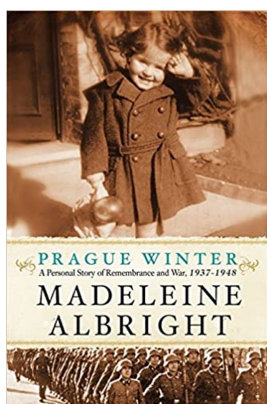
Thanks to all who distributed the Advent/Christmas boxes, all who were a part of the tree-lighting and hum-a-long, all who staffed the Advent hours for personal reflection, and all who participated in Advent Agape meals. You made this strange Advent and Christmas richer.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

The Prelude for **Sunday, January 3, 2021** is the Prelude from Ralph Vaughan Williams' Suite for Viola and Orchestra (1934). This eight movement Suite is divided into three Groups, with Prelude as the opening of the entire work. Group One, includes Prelude as well as Carol and Christmas Dance, and is a set that Joan Ellesick and I have played at Christ Lutheran during the Christmas season. Vaughan Williams dedicated the Suite to violist Lionel Tertis who premiered the work with Malolm Sargent conducting in London. Check out this [performance of Suite for Viola and Orchestra](#) on youtube.com.

Adult Formation



In what may be some slower, quieter days, perhaps you'll have time to obtain a copy of Madeleine Albright's *Prague Winter*. We'll gather via Zoom to discuss it on **January 25th at 7:30**. From Barnes and Noble: *Prague Winter* combines the intimacy of an autobiography with the drama of an exciting and well-told story-all underpinned by the gravity and intelligence of a serious work of history. The result is a highly readable and incisive work filled with tragedy and triumph, a resonant narrative informed by Albright's remarkable life experience and her characteristic candor in speaking hard truths.

Click here for an interview Secretary Albright gave about the book at her alma mater, Wellesley College: [Prague Winter: A Conversation with Secretary Albright - Bing video](#).

Call to Action

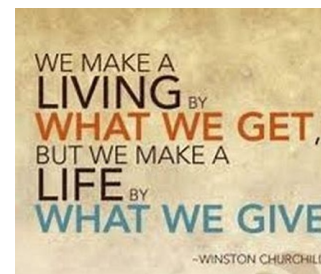


Through our connections with MISN, we became aware of 'David' in early December. Six years ago, David was living in Worcester with his family. Although he was born in the US Virgin Islands (and therefore a US citizen), David was arrested by ICE, and ultimately held for six years in an Alabama detention 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.

Checks should be made out to Christ Lutheran Church and mailed to the church office; write "for David" in the memo line. For more information on how you can help, please 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



Watch your mailboxes for a small packet for observing Epiphany at home: Mark your doorway and bless your home for the new year! Ponder your "star word." Do a little coloring.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

January 3, 2021

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
Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm
Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading
Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

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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