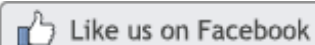


## Greetings!

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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### Ash Wednesday is tomorrow!

Do plan to begin your walk through this season of renewed baptismal faith, service, and devotion by participating in Zoom worship at 7:30 p.m. The invitation, link, and bulletin will be emailed this evening. We hope that all who live in the Metrowest area have received your Lenten packets, which include ashes that you may use tomorrow evening.

## Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

As with all of the seasons of the church year, music helps to convey the important biblical and liturgical themes. **For Ash Wednesday**, we begin with a setting by Ross Petot of "*Wondrous Love*" from the rich Southern Harmony tradition. Psalm 51 will be sung as the hymn "*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*" The Hymn of the Day focuses on our Lenten journey, "*O Lord throughout these forty days*" and the Postlude for Ash Wednesday features our CLC voices singing a beautiful setting of the shape-note hymn "*Lord Jesus think on me*" by composer Derek Healey.

For **February 21, the First Sunday in Lent**, our CLC voices will sing Jan Bender's dramatic "*Begone, Satan!*," reflecting on Jesus' trials and temptations in the wilderness as recorded in Mark's Gospel reading.

If you are looking for a daily Lenten devotion, consider the **CLC Weekday Reflections** offering readings, reflections, prayers and beautiful, locally sourced music. The link each day is conveniently sent to your email and each reflection is about five minutes or less of your time.

## Adult Formation

In the adult forum this Sunday we'll discuss the strange and provocative *The Rat Film*. What struck you? What surprised you? What will stick with you? Where do we see the lingering effects of even policies that have been abandoned? How can they begin to be remedied?



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### CLC Book Group, March 15, 7:30 pm

*The Sport of Kings* by C. E. Morgan is "an American tale centered on a horse and two families: one white, a Southern dynasty whose forefathers were among the founders of Kentucky; the other African-American, the descendants of their slaves. A sweeping narrative of wealth and poverty, racism and rage, *The Sport of Kings* is an unflinching portrait of lives cast in the shadow of slavery and a moral epic for our time."

Available through the Minuteman Library system.

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### Call to Action

CLC's scheduled Family Promise Host week is coming right up, February 21 - 28, 2021.

As you may know, FPM plans on keeping families in the shelter program housed in hotels for the foreseeable future, most likely until 2022. At CLC we are hoping to create a pool of money to be used for GROCERIES ONLY during our scheduled host weeks in 2021 (February, June, November). Checks in any amount may be sent directly to Christ Lutheran, 113 Union St., Natick, to the attention of Family Promise Grocery Fund. Please make the check payable to CLC, with Family Promise in the memo line. Any questions or concerns should be directed to either Mary Avalos or Robin Hurst (CLC FPM Coordinators). Thanks so much to all for your continued support of this important ministry!

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*"I was a stranger and you welcomed me . . ."* Matthew 25:35



The Social Justice Committee and Church Council are currently exploring the possibility of hosting an asylum-seeking family. The family may travel from a border shelter, or they may come from a detention center. Sponsored by AMMPARO, this commitment would at a minimum involve the following:

- A lead congregation that is a Welcoming Congregation (Christ Lutheran Church is)
- A team of people committed to work together for possibly longer than 18 months to walk with the asylee family.
- Team size should be no less than 5 to 6 people and needs to include several people who can communicate in the asylee's language.
- The team will necessitate forming a coalition with other congregations in order to assure that the adequate support required by the asylee family is always available.
- Capacity to raise funds to cover costs for food, clothing, shelter, housing, medical care, legal fees,

immigration case expenses, transportation and incidentals.

- Cross-cultural training and racial justice work has happened or is happening not only for the team but the congregation.
- Capacity to connect the asylee with legal services, either pro bono or paid.

In October we participated in a three-part webinar training series led by Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), the ELCA and Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains. We are currently engaged in a discernment process. Excited to explore how we might become involved in this challenging project, we would love to share with you what we have learned. If you would like to hear more or if you would like to be a part of the group that begins this work, reach out to a member of the committee:

Martha Cronin, Mary Avalos, Rolf Larson, Celeste Larson, Pr. Rebecca Bourret

#### Request for garage space and truck to collect and store household goods:

As we prepare to support a family seeking asylum in our country, we may have the opportunity to collect used furniture. We are looking for a volunteer who has a truck to move the furniture and a volunteer who has a place to store the furniture until it is needed (likely a few months). If you can help, please contact Rolf Larson at [racslarson@verizon.net](mailto:racslarson@verizon.net) or Pastor Bourret.

## Looking Ahead



Often February and March are the months that feel the longest and least habitable for people. If winter has you feeling more cooped up than usual, we invite you to revisit our **Weekday Reflections**. Every weekday, an email conveniently delivers meditative scripture and soothing music for reflection. Read what others have said about integrating the Weekday Reflections into their daily routine:

*I have never gotten into a routine of daily devotions and I find that the email that comes daily has helped me to do this. I enjoy hearing Pastor read the texts and the reflection questions that follow allow me to take pause and to think, if only for a brief moment, on an aspect of my life or the world. I always enjoy the musical piece that follows. There is a great variety and beauty in the music. I have found it a great way to start the day. ~ Carol Virshbo*

*Since you started sending a daily reminder with the link, I have been taking a break from my morning routine to listen to the daily reflections on a more regular basis. While many of the bible passages are familiar, the daily readings include many that are not part of the regular Sunday readings in the three annual cycles, and so expand the amount of scripture presented each week. The reflections provide a nice reason to pause and consider what we heard, and the musical interlude at the end provides the time to do so. The music is nicely varied and is a fine feature itself. ~ John Whitlock*



Throughout Lent, we will offer a service of Word and Prayer each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The service comes from the new hymnal supplement, All Creation Sings, and includes Scripture, song, prayer, and reflection on an image (visio divina) or text (lectio divina). Plan to make this a part of your Lenten devotional practice.

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEK  
February 21, 2021

Readings and Psalm

First Reading  
Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm  
Psalm 25

Second Reading  
1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel  
Mark 1:9-15

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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.

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**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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