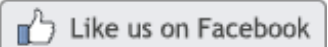


Greetings!

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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Late last fall, as the number of people seeking asylum in the U.S. grew rapidly, Christ Lutheran Church, an ELCA "Welcoming Congregation," was approached by the Executive Director of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) with a request to consider sponsorship (accompaniment) of an asylee family, and we began exploring what that would mean and require, both financially and personally.

Our best educated estimate was that it would require \$100,000 over a two-year period, and lesser, but still significant support for some time thereafter -- asylum-seekers are not legally permitted to work while their cases are pending -- and considerable support with tasks like accessing English classes, medical care, legal assistance, grocery shopping, and the like, as well as finding and setting up an apartment, cultural acclimation, negotiating public transit, and other matters. Over these months we have been building a network with several other congregations in the MetroWest area, and undertaking some early fundraising, anticipating that we might be ready to welcome a family in late spring or early summer. To date, we have received pledges of approximately \$68,000 from all sources, the majority from individual donors from CLC, and established relationships with about ten other congregations interested in participating.

As we learned more about the process, we became acquainted with the pastor from the bishop's office in the Southwest Texas Synod of the ELCA, who, in partnership with her counterpart in the Episcopal Diocese of the same region, is the de facto coordinator of these sponsorships. She contacted us last Friday and told us of a family of four from Togo (in West Africa, next to Ghana), a father, mother, infant, and toddler, ready to be connected with a sponsoring congregation; and she hoped that we might be

ready and able to welcome them, the sooner the better.

Although the timetable was not what we had planned on, it was felt that we were far enough along that the leap of faith in saying "yes" was one worth taking. At a special Council meeting Sunday evening, the CLC Council approved our moving forward as the lead congregation within the developing consortium to receive the family-as soon as this week! Initial plans for arranging temporary housing, transportation from Logan, and early meals are underway, and there will be numerous opportunities for members to become engaged once the family arrives. We will keep everyone updated as appropriate. In the meantime, please pray for "our" family as they prepare to embark on this next leg of what has surely been a long and arduous journey, and for all who will offer an initial welcome to greater Boston.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

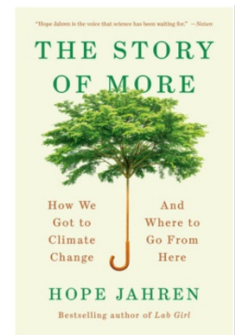
Music for the **Third Sunday of Easter, April 18** includes soprano, Christine Jay singing Mozart's *Alleluia* from *Exsultate Jubilate* in a recording she made for us live at Christ Lutheran. Come early to hear a fine singer perform a joyful, uplifting classic aria.

Have you visited our CLC Music page on the Christ Natick website to watch and hear some wonderful music making by our own players and singers? Just click on <https://christnatick.org/clc-music/> and enjoy a wide variety of Easter Season selections.

Adult Formation

CLC Book Group, April 19, 7:30 pm.

In advance of Earth Day this month the book group has selected Hope Jahren's latest book, *The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here*. Developed as a series of lectures that the geochemist and geobiologist offers at the University of Norway in Oslo, this timely read serves as "a pocket primer" to the ways human habits have imperiled the planet. Join us for a lively discussion by contacting Marianne Swenson for a Zoom link to the meeting mwsenson10@gmail.com.



Adult Forum

The adult forum continues this Sunday, April 18 at 9:00am, continuing the discussion of Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture. To join the conversation, simply log in to worship one hour earlier, at 9:00 a.m. The document for discussion will be sent along with the bulletin and worship invitation. Newcomers are always welcome!

Call to Action



With the anticipated arrival of an asylee family from Togo, it's time for anyone with a Thrivent policy to apply for those Action Team grants! We can make best use of this resource by requesting specific grants, e.g., for diapers, for sheets, for stocking the pantry, for kitchen items, for baby equipment, for health and hygiene items, for a mattress, rather than more generally for "asylee needs." Please contact Gretchen if you're willing to help to be sure we're not duplicating grant requests. We will create a shared document for folks to review for what's needed.

Looking Ahead



Gardening Day Saturday, April 24

It's spring clean-up time, and this time, it's a triple opportunity: come Saturday, April 24, anytime between 8:30 and noon, and get some exercise while soaking up Vitamin D; see live people, in person, and just maybe, take home some plantings from CLC for your own gardens. Rumor has it there may be goodies, to boot!



READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

April 18, 2021

First Reading
Acts 3:12-19

Psalm
Psalm 4

Second Reading
1 John 3:1-7

Gospel
Luke 24:36b-48

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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