

Christ Lutheran Church Community News

December 8, 2021

CLC Transition

Beginning in January the congregation will begin working with **Pastor David Hulse** and **Pastor Elizabeth Nees**, who will accompany and guide us through our search and call process, each pastor responsible for specific, designated duties.

The Congregation Council this month plans to appoint a 5-8 member Transition Team to work with Pastor Nees on the initial 6-month long assessment process laid out by the New England Synod. In this process that is expected to last 6-9 months, the team will engage in whole-congregation events to examine our history, our present, and map a course for the future. The ultimate goal is to produce a thoroughly examined Ministry Site Profile to underpin the work of a Call Committee when it is formed later next year.

“Dreamers and doers” who are strong communicators and writers, trustworthy and committed, are being sought for this team. Are you interested in joining in this assessment? Is there someone else you would like to nominate? Submit your suggestions/nominations via an email to office@christnatick.org or drop those names into next Sunday’s collection plate. Current members of the Council are not eligible to serve. **Please submit nominations by Sunday, Dec. 12.**

Meet our incoming clergy associates who bring their varied gifts and skills to our call process: [Bios of Pastor Nees and Pastor Hulse](#)

*****Belated appreciation for November 21 farewell event*****
Thank you to **Ruth Colson** who provided dozens of photos for the farewell slideshow and to **Pauline's Catering of Natick** who prepared a delicious luncheon.

Area pastors providing pulpit supply in December

Advent has begun and with it we begin to wait and watch for the unfolding of our congregation’s life together in 2022. We welcome back to our pulpit and altar table clergy who return to lead us in worship:

December 12, 19, 10:00 am –the Rev. Donald Larsen

December 24, Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm – one service led by the Rev. John Stendahl

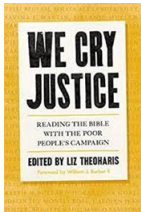
December 25, Christmas Day, 10:00 am – the Rev. Richard Hurst

December 26, First Sunday of Christmas – the Rev. Clifford Gerber



Advent Devotions

Rev. Richard Hurst offers readings, reflections and prayers each weekday as we approach Christmas. Advent Devotions conclude with a musical offering based on an Advent hymn. So, light your Advent wreath and include Advent Devotions part of your Advent observance this year.



Heeding Pr. Larson's call to us in his Sunday sermon to continue to work for justice and peace in this world, join us for Advent mid-week Bible study, Wednesdays, December 8, 15, 22 at 7:30 pm, to study and reflect upon Bible messages collected by members of the Poor People's Campaign in their book, *We Cry Justice*.

Music Notes

Tom Berryman, Music Director

The second reading for Sunday, December 12, Advent 3 tells us to "Rejoice, the Lord is near!" and the CLC Choir echos Paul's writing in the Offertory Music: "Rejoice in the Lord always," Henry Purcell's full anthem based on the Philippians 4 text. For a full performance by the Collegium Vocale Gent view [here](#).

Live Music this Weekend

CLC members are singing live concerts planned for this coming weekend:

Boston Cecilia: Renaissance Reborn
www.bostoncecilia.org (John Whitlock)

Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus: O Holy Night
www.saengerfest.org (Hilding Hedberg)

Chorus Pro Musica: Threads of Joy
<https://choruspromusica.org> (Kim Petot)

Jameson Singers: Comfort and Joy
<https://www.jamesonsingers.org/concerts> (Tom Berryman)

Hymns for Sunday, December 12 Advent 3

Opening Hymn: *O Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry* ELW 249

Gospel Acclamation and Wreath Lighting: *Come to be our hope, O Jesus* ACS 904

Hymn of the Day: *Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn* ELW 242

Offertory Hymn: *When a star is shining* ACS 915 vv 1,3

Communion Hymn: *He came down* ELW 253

Sending Hymn: *People, look east* ELW 248

Adult Formation

Adult Forum, Sundays, 9 am

Feeling disconnected from people during these past 18 months? Wanting to gather, chat, and catch up on one another's stories and begin to reconnect? Join us in the

Memorial Room at 9:00 am on the next two Sunday mornings for an informal time to share experiences, raise questions, and offer ideas for the coming year. We'll put on a pot of coffee for you.

CLC Book Group, January 24, 2021 at 7:30 pm

The January selection is William Kent Krueger's novel, *This Tender Land*. You have plenty of time to locate a copy and read it. The group will not meet again until January 24, 2022 at 7:30 pm. If you'd like to join us in our Zoom discussions, contact Marianne Swenson, mwsenson10@comcast.com.

Call to Action

The Finance and Building Committee is preparing the 2022 budget to present to the Council at its December meeting. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for the new year, you are encouraged to do so. *Time and Talents sheets* are also welcomed.



Please note: if you have used CLC's Zoom account to convene meetings, the account is now associated with the church office email address: office@christnatick.org. **The password has changed.** If you need to use it to convene a CLC meeting, and need that information, please [contact the church office](#).



If you would like to order a poinsettia plant for Christmas service display, be sure to fill out the envelope inserted in the Sunday bulletin with your name, the name of the person/s you wish to honor or remember, and your donation; place the envelope in the collection plate or send it to the church office.

Looking Ahead

On Saturday, December 18, 5:00 pm, CLC will host an outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, followed by holiday refreshments. Mark your calendars now for this fun and festive event, and be sure to invite friends, colleagues, family and neighbors to join in the musical fun. Once again, the CLC Bell Choir will lead the songs.



CAMP CALUMET CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT IN 2022!

Mark your calendars!! We had to cancel our registration for 2021, but have re-registered for **the weekend of February 4-6** in 2022. God-willing, COVID will have subsided enough for us to gather for this treasured time for families, friends, youth as we head outdoors for walks, hikes, and sledding or we gather indoors in front of the fireplace for reading, knitting, and conversation. The meals provided by the dining hall are delicious and the companionship and camaraderie are much cherished. Perhaps the Transition Team and Pr. Nees will plan some group events for the occasion. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us. Costs, registration

forms, and details will be provided next week.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

December 12, 2021

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

For the Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18



**The Rev Donald Larsen will be
preaching and presiding on December 12, 2021.**

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