

the Messenger



Christ Lutheran Church, LCMC
Maple Plain, MN 55359



March 2019

Are We Prepared to Meet God? Are We Prepared to Die?

Such a large, gigantic question! Yet this is what God is doing and is working in us, in His people.

God is preparing us to meet Him. God is desiring to build in us new hearts, new minds, and new wills. God is working to free us from the power of sin, the power of fear, and to put our feet on solid ground.

Jesus said, *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."* Matthew 7:13

When we have our health, family, and friends we may feel things are okay. But God truly looks on the heart and to see if it truly loves God and trusts God above all things. God sees the hurt in our lives and how we protect ourselves from Him and from others. God sees the selfish ways in our lives that leads us away from Him. God sees the power of greed working in our lives that cancels the need for faith to be operating in our lives daily. God sees how we choose to become blind because we cannot bear the weight of our own weaknesses. God sees how we choose to go our own way and want to be our own leader, and not to allow Him to lead us.

God not only knows the true and whole condition of our lives today. But God also has the will and plan to help us in every need we have. But that gate is narrow because it means we follow Him, His way. We walk with him and for him only, and we find His heart for us, his plans for us. We surrender and ask for Him to lead.

It is very attractive in our society to be called a leader. Who wants to be called a sheep, a follower? My poor dad always said about raising our family, "It's tough, six of us, all chiefs and no followers". Jesus alone is the Good Shepherd, only he can lead us to peaceful waters and green pastures, to absolute confidence in the valley of the shadow of death.

This coming Wednesday March 6 is Ash Wednesday, we return to the Lord! Jesus calls us to prepare for our dying. *"If anyone would follow me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."* Luke 9:23-24

As we receive the sign of the cross in ashes we hear the very true words, "From dust you have come to dust you shall return!" Ultimately God is preparing us for our death so that we may live with Him for all eternity and in this life know the wonder of His love and the power of Christ alone to save us from.

Will you please join us in walking the path of Lent, a time to be sorrowful for our sin, for the darkness in the world, that we might be more transformed into the image of Christ who cares for the lost? Will you make a commitment to be there for yourself and for each other? I pray that you will, that all of us will.

Our Ash Wednesday and Lenten worship services are at 6:30 pm. Beginning Wednesday March 13 there are Soup Suppers at 5:30 to 6:15 pm. followed by worship from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. If you would like a ride please feel free to call the office.

Check the Welcome Desk in the narthex. We will have a Lenten devotional there with a verse of scripture for each day, for every person. There is also a wall calendar for your refrigerator.

I invite you now not to wait until Ash Wednesday, but to begin to prepare yourself now by reading Psalms 143 and 139. As a way of inviting God to speak to he needs of our souls.

It is a forty day journey of repentance and sorrow that ends at the feet of the resurrected Christ who says "Peace be with you!" That peace is unique and powerful it comes to those whom have allowed Him to lead.

God's Promises are for you!

Pastor Ron

February COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*The church council discussed, approved, and gratefully received the B-Fund. The Harold H. Burrows Endowment Fund is for repairs and or improvements for the church property. Please read more about the B-Fund in the newsletter.

*The Vision Task Force will conduct a Congregational Survey by Church Doctors on April 7 and a Congregational Workshop on Saturday May 18.

*The Youth Bake Sale was a success. This year more funds were raised than last year.

*Lenten Soup Suppers will start on March 13.



March Benevolence is
Maple Plain Food Shelf

Christ Lutheran Financial Update!

We were joyful to close the financial books for 2018 being very close to making budget. Thanks to all! As we carry out our mission in 2019 the average monthly expenses are the same as last year at about \$23,453. In January our offerings were \$18,930. The expenses were at \$23,265. We were high in snow removal and saved some on administration and choir director salary.

We also used monies from the Church Property Capital Fund to pay for a new furnace for the west fellowship and repairs to the hot water system. We thank Rich Mickschl and Skip Flatten for seeing this project through. The balance in the Church Property Capital Fund is now at \$19,122.01. The balance in the church's general fund is at \$101,043.

Rich Mickschl is our treasurer, Nancy Wood, Denny Grenell, and Wally Olson serve on the Finance Committee.



B FUND

Harold and Renée Burrows joined Christ Lutheran Church on January 10, 1982. For over thirty-six years Harold was blessed by God and this congregation, and he had blessed us with his steady leadership and service. His bright eyes, quick wisdom and humor, was a source of strength and knowledge. He had great discernment in many matters of life, overall, he was a joy and comfort to all. He loved the word of God and learning. Huck fought cancer for over five years and died June 16, 2018. Those years were a time of hardship but also a time of grace for him and us to still be together. He is truly missed by all. Huck also desired to leave us with an endowment fund for caring for the church properties. We thank Renée for setting up this endowment fund for the congregation.

The **B-Fund is to be invested by the Christ Lutheran Endowment Fund Committee and to be disbursed by a majority vote of the church council only for the purposes of property repairs or improvements. The principle of the **B-Fund** is \$100,000 and only the earnings will be used for the disbursements. New contributions to the **B-Fund** principle are welcomed. The document describing the rules and procedures of this **B-Fund** are available upon request.**

With thanks to God who truly provides for us in all our needs, we also give thanks and honor to Huck and Renée Burrows.

Vision Task Force

“Don’t change yourself to be like the people of this world, but let God change you inside with a new way of thinking.”
Rom. 12:2

Churches go through many cycles as demographics and new worldviews change the way we serve and worship God. As a congregation we must evolve to better serve God, our community and each other. The Vision Task Force is leading the challenge of renewing our church experience. As a church, the best way to do God's will is to become the people God wants us to be. Our journey as a congregation begins with each of us committed to improve our experience with Christ.

Renewing our church experience is a long-term process and not just a weekend workshop or reading a couple of books. This is to involve the very way we feel about church and our relationship to Christ. We hope to create a "Kingdom Culture" which takes joy in serving God and each other. A Kingdom culture is the spiritual DNA that powers healthy thriving churches. Over the next few weeks and months you will learn more about what it means for a congregation to have a kingdom culture and important power of prayer in guiding us. With a true Kingdom culture, we are courageous, confident and excited to lean on Christ to guide us.

Please ask a Vision Task Force/Committee member for more information.

We ask for your prayers!

Brad Sim, Nancy Wood, Greg Rietow, Mark Mundahl, Molly Sartor, and Ron Boettner

Next Meeting February 28 at 6:30 pm

Important Dates: Sunday, April 7 Congregational Survey

Saturday May 18 Congregational Workshop with Church Doctors Ministries

VISION TASK FORCE



2019 CLC COUNCIL

Month	Name	Term	Committee Assignment
January	Dale KenKnight	17-19	Secretary Cemetery
February	Deb Stueven	19-21	Memorial Mission & Outreach
March	Tom Zulkosky	17-19	Property
April	Greg Rietow	19-21	Worship & Music Adult Mission Trip Vision
May	Mark Mundahl	17-19	Vice President Staff Support, Vision Memorial
June	Jean Flatten	2019	CLW Endowment Thank You's
July	Nancy Wood	18-20	President Staff Support Finance, Vision
August	Yvonne Breeschoten	18-20	Furnishings
September	Molly Sartor		Youth Director
October	Brad Sim	19-21	Vision
November	Rich Mickschl	18-20	Treasurer Benevolence Finance
December	Dale KenKnight	17-19	Secretary Cemetery
	Pastor Ron Boettner		

MARCH

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6
	9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - AIC 10:15 am - Good Life 10:30 am - Adult Study	9 am - Quilters 6:30 pm - Prayer Team	6:30 pm - Memorial Task	5:15 pm - Confirmation 6:30 pm - ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
	10	11	12	13
	Daylight Saving Time 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - AIC 10:15 am - Good Life 10:30 am - Adult Study	9 am - Quilters	6:30 pm - Vision Task Force	5:30 pm - Lenten Suppers 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
	17	18	19	20
	St. Patrick's Day 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - AIC 10:30 am - Adult Study 11:15 am - Pre-Council	9 am - Quilters 6:30 pm - Prayer Team	6:30 pm - Memorial Task	5:15 pm - Confirmation 5:30 pm - Lenten Suppers 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
	24	25	26	27
	9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - AIC 10:15 am - Good Life 10:30 am - Adult Study	9 am - Quilters 6:30 pm - Youth Comm.		5:30 pm - Lenten Suppers 6:30 pm - Lenten Worship 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
	31	1	2	3
	9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15 am - AIC 10:15 am - Good Life 10:30 am - Adult Study			
	8	7	15	16
	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am
	22	21	28	29
	OFFICE CLOSED	9:15 am - Charis 7 pm - COUNCIL	9:15 am - Charis	OFFICE CLOSED
	23	21	28	30
	5	4	5	6





March 2019 Volunteer Schedule

March 3

Greeters: Russ & Barb Jerde

Lector: Karen Pennaz

Coffee: Klinkners

March 10

Greeters: Zach Eckhoff Family

Lector: **Will You Serve?**

Coffee: Stouts

March 17

Greeters: Muckenhirns

Lector: Shelly Anderson

Coffee: Heilmans/Cousers

March 24

Greeters: Grenells

Lector: Val Homuth

Coffee: Hardings/Innes

March 31

Greeters: Steffls

Lector: Becky KenKnight

Coffee: C. Johnsons/Grenells

March 6-Ash Wednesday

Lector-Jean Flatten

March 13-Lenten Worship

Lector-Renée Burrows

March 20-Lenten Worship

Lector-Gary Stueven

March 27-Lenten Worship

Lector-Karleen Boettner

Council Representative: Tom Zulkosky

Sunshine Caller: Mary Couser

Altar Guild: Mary Ann Johnson, Barb Carlson

Ushers: Skip & Jean Flatten, Steve Pennaz, Mike McDonald, Klinkner Family



CHRIST LUTHERAN WOMEN – March 2019

OUR FANTASTIC CLW QUILTERS

You are invited to join our QUILTERS, who meet every Monday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the fun, fellowship and coffee and be a part of this creative and very worthy ministry. *No sewing ability is necessary!*

POTLUCK DINNER & BUNCO PARTY

Everyone who attended had fun on **Saturday, February 16,** for our annual Potluck Dinner and Bunco Party. We also collected food for the local food shelf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ladies, please mark your calendars for ***Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 7:00 p.m.,*** for our *Spring Business Meeting*. Dessert and coffee will be provided.

Your Sisters in Christ,

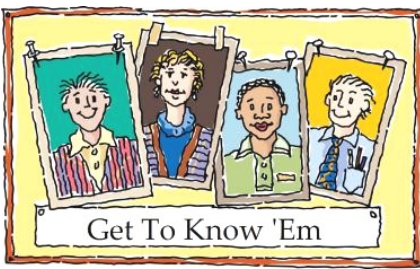
Val Homuth, Mona Hawkinson,
Bonita Heilman, Jean Flatten
& Marilyn Rönkvist

CLW MISSION STATEMENT

We open our hearts to God,
by worshiping and hearing His word.

We serve Him and worship in work,
by extending our hospitality to others
and sharing His word.

ALL THE WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE
MEMBERS OF CLW. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO JOIN US, YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST.



Joan Murphy



Family– husband-Bill Murphy, 3 kids, 3 grandkids, 2 great-grands and another on the way!

Hometown-St. Michael, MN

Occupation– organist/pianist at CLC

How were you introduced to Christ Lutheran?

I answered a newspaper ad for an organist, got an interview/audition and was hired! YAY!

How long have you been attending Christ Lutheran? Since 2005, so about 14 years

What is your earliest memory of Christ Lutheran? The job interview-part of it was to accompany the committee-all choir members-in a tricky choir piece. I remember we started together and ended together, but I have no idea what happened in the middle! I was impressed with their smiles and warmth and felt “at home”.

It takes me 25 minutes to get to church.

What are your hobbies, what do you like to do? Play the piano; read-C.S. Lewis, Jane Austin and Paul Meier are my favorite authors; travel; shop with girlfriends, “do lunch”; but best of all-spend time with my family!

What is something you can share that most people would not know about you? Pastor Garwick lost me in JFK Airport! Actually, it wasn't his fault-I took the wrong door and ended up completely separated from my travel group. Long story short-they found me ☺

What is your favorite bible verse? Jeremiah 29:11-“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU”, DECLARES THE LORD; “PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE”

Why is that your favorite verse? This verse reminds me that when life gets scary, the Almighty God is for me!

How have you used your God given talents here at Christ Lutheran? I am blest to be allowed to use both of my talents here, music and teaching. When I initially came, I thought it was for my music only, but when I asked Pastor Dave Garwick about starting a women's Bible study, he was for it! This church has shown such grace to me! Thank you all.

Share a great story about Christ Lutheran or something great you have seen here. Huck Burrows was a quiet man, but as they say, “still waters run deep.” His leadership a few years ago was truly inspiring to me and belongs, I believe, in the “great” category in the history of this church.



TJ Carlson	3/6	Brad Sim	3/16
Katy Risvold	3/7	Deb Stueven	3/18
Renee Burrows	3/9	Peter Weis	3/18
Jerry Horazuk	3/9	Allen Weis	3/19
Alex Gustafson	3/10	Rich Mickschl	3/20
Colleen Hansen	3/12	George Boyadjis	3/22
Doris Hanson	3/13	Sarah Klinkner	3/22
Sharon Michael	3/14	Lauren Sim	3/24
Paisley Thomas	3/14	Christine Flatten	3/25
		Ann Garwick	3/26

Mar. 6-Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30pm

April 21-Easter!

May 18-Congregational meeting/Seminar

June 24-27-VBS

July 28-Aug. 3-Youth Mission Trip



Introducing...

Check out the new hallway board-Christ's Corner!

"Christ's Corner!" is a place to see how Christ is calling and using us to reach out and to build our congregation as He desires to. It is a place of information about what is happening, and what "on ramps" there are for you to be truly involved and energized.



Get involved & energized at CLC!

New members received at CLC!



Feb. 17

-Bill and Michele Seehafer, Ryan Seehafer, & Emily Seehafer

-Dave and Amy Thompson

-Joyce Allen

-Marshall & Jordana Lacina & Levi Lacina

Mar. 3

- Tony and Erin Pollock, Ella Pollock, & Colin Pollock

Lenten Suppers begin March 13 at 5:30 pm. Come and share a light supper before Lenten worship.

Contact Molly Sartor if you'd like to serve.

Supper dates are: 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3 and 4/10



MARCH MISSION- FOOD SHELF DRIVE!



STRETCH YOUR DONATION



Your \$10



Your food shelf's \$10

Food shelves can stretch cash further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more Minnesota families by donating cash to your local food shelf today.



For more than three decades, Minnesota FoodShare has partnered with local food shelves to bring food to those in need in communities throughout the state.

Your cash goes further and every dollar helps families in need. Please consider a cash donation as every amount helps and your dollars are stretched as they can buy even more food from food banks!

Make checks payable to:

Maple Plain Community Food Shelf

Donations accepted all through March.



Join us March 17 - 31 for a Silent *ACTION* (not auction) for reminders on how your dollars; \$5, \$10, \$20 are stretched to buy so much more!

SAVE THE DATE!! **PROGRESSIVE DINNER April 6, 2019**

At Christ Lutheran, food and fellowship just naturally go together. Sharing a meal at the homes of your church family is a wonderful opportunity to build a sense of community and develop friendships.

Last year over 50 of us attended! That's a lot of members-having a lot of fun within our church community.

The Progressive Dinner is a good way to get to know more of our congregation and connect with them in a way you don't at church.



In case you've never been, you might be asking....what is a progressive dinner? It's not progressive as in innovative or hip. It's progressive because the guests "progress" from house to house. For example, you'll go to one house for appetizers, another for your main course, then back to church as a large group for dessert and fun activities.

This year's Progressive Dinner will take place on **Saturday evening, April 6**. Please mark your calendar and when the sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex, please sign up to either host or help. It's a fun, informal (yes you can wear jeans and have a glass of wine or a beer) night that everyone seems to enjoy and then doesn't want to miss.

Whether you are new to the church, looking to meet and get to know more people or just looking for a fun night to celebrate the fact that winter is over and our snowbirds are back, we'd love to have you come.

Questions – just ask Karen Pennaz, Danielle Thomas, Bonita Heilman, Pam Farmer or Jean Flatten.

Karen Pennaz

Your "Food Shelf" Shopping List



Baking Mixes



Mayonnaise

Boxed meals/Side Dishes



Salad Dressings



Rice



Toothbrushes



Jello, Pudding mix



Kleenex



Boxed Pasta



Paper towels



Cocoa & Tea & Coffee



**ALWAYS NEEDED:
Grocery bags
for clients food!**

March Food Items for the Maple Plain Food Shelf