

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016

Welcoming. Transforming. Serving.



Here's to a Nourishing New Year!!!

Throughout the coming year we will be using the word Nourish a lot in our life together at Christ Lutheran. For starters, Nourish is our stewardship/ministry theme for 2016. So throughout the coming year we will hopefully engage and encourage you to dig a little deeper in terms of what it might mean to be a church that is in the Nourishing business. In that, what would it look like to realize just maybe God is calling Christ Lutheran to be a place where people come not only to be nourished but also a place where people are sent out to nourish the world around us.

We hope this coming year will encourage us as individuals to discover and affirm the things, the people, the experiences in life that nourish us at a deeper spiritual/faith level. For some it might be taking part in weekly worship opportunities. Others might realize your life of faith is nourished in living generously, and by giving of your time "serving in God's world with love." Some might realize the importance of finding a time and place each day to sit in silence while letting your deep breathing exercises be a form of prayer and meditation. In any case the question will be "how can you make the space in your schedules to nourish yourself with that which really matters?" As often it seems as our lives get busy, the things that truly matter are the things we let go of first.

We will also take time throughout the year to affirm the mind, body, spirit connection. Including taking time to talk about the things that nourishes our body? The Bible refers to our bodies as "temples" (that is places where the holy dwells). If we believe this to be true, then how we treat/mistreat our bodies matter. What are some ways Christ Lutheran can promote and encourage each one of us to take better care of our bodies. What are some ways we can encourage and enable people to nourish their bodies with things that promote health, wellness and life.

Above all, we trust 2016 will be a year in which we are nourished by the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. As we move from the joy and celebrations of Christmas may we like the shepherds return to our homes praising God for all we have heard and seen. May we too realize the "Good News of Great Joy" is the news God comes and dwells in our hearts and lives each and every day. The "Good News" is God nourishes us each day with grace upon grace upon grace. The "Good News of Great Joy" for all people is the fact that God is in the nourishing business.

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"We Are a Welcoming Community Seeking to Grow Faithful and Transformed Members, who Serve in God's World with Love."



Christ Lutheran Church
150 5th St.
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota
55047
clcmarine.org
651.433.3222

Christ Lutheran Church

150 Fifth Street
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
clcmarine.org

Church Office: 651-433-3222

Office Hours

8:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

Sunday Worship

8:15 AM & 9:45 AM

Fellowship is held between services

Staff

Joel Martin, Pastor

clcpastorjoel@frontiernet.net
Home: 651-433-9952
Cell: 651-323-0486

Hannah Bartos, Pastor

clcpastorhannah@frontier.com

Laura Langreck, Office Manager,

CREDO, christmsc@frontiernet.net

Susan Foss, Financial Sec. & Adventurers,

susanclc@frontiernet.net

Cheryl Reinitz, Treasurer

clctreasurer@frontiernet.net
Cell: 651-357-4854

Sue Knepfelkamp, Custodian

Bob Waedekin, Organist,

Steeple Singers Choir

Neil Johnson, Almost Angels Choir

Red Bridge Preschool

Jessica Hansen

Director & Lead Teacher

Susan Foss, Assistant Teacher

Kris Hedstand, Assistant Teacher

Kellie Brogan, Twos' Teacher

Phone: 651-433-3222

redbridge@frontier.com

Church Council

John Arnason, President, 433.8510
Chris Getchell, Vice President, 433.5135
Anne Smith-Gardner, Secretary, 439.7289
Cheryl Reinitz, 357.4854
Marj Hagen, 433.4493
Joyce Ritz, 433.2449
Matt Langreck, 587.4243
Marcy Wirth, 433.3278
John Landrith, 270.5221
Eric Tryon, 491.6263
Kathy Marker, 433.4149

"We the People of Christ Lutheran Church Are a **Welcoming** Community **Seeking** to Grow Faithful and **Transformed** Members, Who **Serve** in God's World with Love."

From Christ Lutheran's Vision Statement



Some of you know over Thanksgiving weekend my family celebrated my mom's 75th birthday by gathering together in Chicago. It was the first time in 13 years my four brothers and I were all together in one place. It was also the first time all but one of my mom's grandchildren were all together - the oldest being 20 and the youngest being 8. All together there were 16 of us and

that is a lot of Martins in one place. While geography has much to do with it, if we were honest we would admit many subtle and unspoken reasons why we haven't all been together for 13 years.

The planning leading up to the weekend was a lot of work. Where are we going to stay? What were we going to do? Where were we going to eat? What if we don't get along? How will we keep all seven of the grandchildren who would be there occupied? My one brother has two children who are autistic—how would we make sure they are included? Did I mention, what if we all don't get along? So being the son who carries some anxiety about not wanting to disappoint, these and many other questions caused a fair level of stress during the weeks and days leading up to the gathering.

In the end, things went really well. Everyone seemed to get along. And we made plans to get together every year (actually, that part is not true at all - but it did go well). The meals we had together were good. The hotel we stayed at not only had a great pool, but it had great open space to gather together to play board games and have conversation. I know at least my part of the family left thinking one more day together would have been nice. But then again, I would much rather have had that thought then to have walked away thinking it was one day too many. So it was probably just the right amount of time.

I share all of this because I realized something over that weekend. I learned that even though we as a family are somewhat estranged, not to mention strange, there was something truly nourishing being together. There was something nourishing about seeing my own children have fun with their cousins who they don't see as often as they would like. It was nourishing to simply to see my nephew and niece who are autistic and to find ways to interact with them and engage them in their lives. It was nourishing to laugh with my mom, my brothers and their families over shared memories remembering "who was the one who used to do ..."

For many years I wondered why no one ever told me that things would not stay the same. In that, I have always wished someone would have said when we were all younger - "Pay attention, this is the last time you will eat a meal together around this table as a family before your dad dies." Or no one ever told us, "Maybe you should all get up and go outside and play football together one more time, because next year at this time the older of you will graduate from college and won't come back." I sometimes wish someone would have just said, "it won't always be like this, so pay attention and enjoy it while it lasts."

Pastor's Notes—Continued on Next Page

Sometimes there is a sense of loss that comes when you realize you can't go back. Sometimes it even hurts to remember. But the older I get, the more I am trying to pay attention. The older I get the more I realize how life does not come with a dress rehearsal, and time stops for no one. And I am trying to keep my eyes, my heart, and my life open to the moments, the people, the places and the things in life that nourish me. Trying to remember I may never have this moment ever again.

Like many of you, starting a new year fills my mind with memories of the year and years gone by. It seems like only yesterday many people had anxiety over what would happen when 1999 changed over to 2000 - how could it possibly be 2016 already? And while we give thanks to God for the ways our lives were changed, challenged, nourished and blessed in 2015 - we also pray that God would continue to nourish us with people, with events and with places that feed who we are and who God is calling us to be.

One of my favorite memories of Thanksgiving weekend was a moment (and it really was only a moment) when my daughter Elsa was standing looking out a window next to her cousin Hannah. Hannah and Elsa are only five months apart in terms of age. Hannah is autistic. She doesn't communicate much. She relates to the world differently. But there was this one moment when I looked over and Elsa and Hannah were holding hands looking out this big window at who knows what. If I wasn't paying attention I would not have seen it. If I wasn't paying attention I wouldn't have noticed that my brother's wife (Hannah's mom) also was watching with a tear running down her cheek. For a moment it did actually seem like the world stopped. It didn't. The moment didn't last. But it sure was nourishing.

~ Pastor Joel

P.S. Thank you for a great year of ministry together in 2015. Thank you for the many ways you supported the mission God shares with us through the ministry we share together at CLC. Thank you for the many ways you nourished my life, and I hope that I in some ways have nourished yours. Here's to a blessed and nourishing 2016.



“Drawn to the Word”

On Wednesday, January 20th we welcome Pastor Paul Oman back to Christ Lutheran as he will paint another larger-than-life sized mural right before your eyes (and in less than an hour).

If you attended this event before you know how meaningful this experience can be. If you missed it before we hope that you can join us this year. The **“Drawn to the Word”** worship experience will also include the expression of art through music.

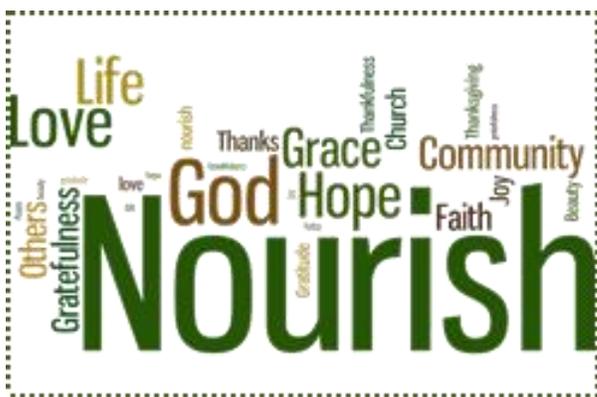
(if you would like to play or sing a piece during this event see Pastor Joel or Pastor Hannah)

“Drawn to the Word” will replace all other Life Night activities that night. There will be a ‘pizza’ dinner served in the Nyman Center from 5:15-6:15 (\$5 a person, max of \$20 a family)

We hope you and your family can join us for **“Drawn to the Word”** at 6:30PM on Wednesday, January 20th. Neighbors, friends and family are welcome, too.

“Drawn to the Word” is sponsored in part through the Dan Jackson Memorial Fund.





Nourish will be our stewardship theme and ministry emphasis throughout 2016. Thank you to everyone who filled out and turned in a financial pledge (it is not too late, you can pick up a pledge form in the church office). If you did not receive or pick up your “Nourish” bowl - we still have a few available. Pick one up next time you are at CLC.

To get us thinking about Nourish we asked a few staff members of CLC and Red Bridge about what Nourishes them in their life. Here are a few of their responses.



Bob Waedekin
Music Coord. / Organist

What is your favorite thing to eat that “Nourishes” you when you are hungry?

My daughter loves cereal and noodles. My wife Gayle enjoys anything home-cooked. I like anything that is edible, but prefer ice cream.

What “nourishes” your spiritual /faith life at home today?

We try to take time each day to talk about God and faith and things that happen in our lives. On Sundays we sometimes discuss the sermon and share ideas about it. We use the Advent devotions.

What “Nourishes” you at CLC?

The choir and music certainly nourishes me. We all enjoy the small setting and the sense of community in worship, especially at Christmas.



Laura Langreck—Office Manager

What is a Christmas memory that Nourishes you?

Growing up, we would go to worship on Christmas Eve, my parents and their three girls, and afterwards would return home to Oyster Stew. And, if we were behaved during worship, we would open our presents from Mom and Dad after supper. But, only after everything was cleaned up, washed, dried, and put away. (I only remember one time that we didn’t get to open our presents that night because we were naughty in church.)

What “nourishes” your spiritual /faith life at home today?

My mother used to mark our foreheads with the cross at bedtime each night and say “I love you. Jesus loves you.” I’ve carried this on with my own kids. It definitely nourishes me, and I hope it does the same for them. Maybe not now, when they’re young, but when they look back and hopefully bless their own children in the same way.

What “Nourishes” you at CLC?

The relationships I have at CLC are what nourishes me. I’ve made wonderful friendships here and fostering those friendships keeps me nourished.

Susan Foss —Financial Secretary / Red Bridge Teacher / Adventurers

What “nourishes” your spiritual /faith life at home today? Each Christmas we read the Christmas story on Christmas Eve with a fire glowing and the tree on. We pray every night before bed. Always have and always will. We decide as a family where we can give the gifts of our time and talent to others.

What “Nourishes” you at CLC?

The people I work with. We have the ‘Best Pastors’ who offer great sermons that just seem to be said at the right time. The support of Laura and Jessica. The gifts of those involved with music. The many volunteers who make the church work (especially in terms of my job—Jenny Raffel).

Jessica Hansen — Red Bridge Preschool Director / Teacher



Is there a special food that “nourishes” you?

My mother and grandmother have always baked the most amazing whole wheat bread from wheat that they grind at home. Each time I eat it, I think of the security and comfort I felt from my family during my childhood.

What “nourishes” your spiritual /faith life at home today?

We try to emphasize the idea that God loves us, is always with us, and wants an everyday relationship with us. We talk to God together in the car on the way to school, asking for guidance in the day ahead and thanking Him for his goodness. We talk about God giving us His love for the world around us. Before bed, our children choose a friend they can pray for and serve the next day.

What “Nourishes” you at church? I feel connected to God through the music I sing and listen to at church. I am nourished by being part of a group of people who can serve God together.



ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 ~ 11:00 a.m.

It is an exciting time to be part of Christ Lutheran. We firmly believe that God is at work through what we say and what we do. We are looking forward to 2016 and the many ways that God will nourish us that we might continue to nourish each other and the communities around us. And we invite you to share our excitement and join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.

All members and friends of CLC are invited. The annual meeting is a chance for you to have your voice heard and for you to hear the voices of others as we discuss the ministry we share at Christ Lutheran. We will approve a budget for 2016, elect ministry needs, and be in conversation about how we believe God is moving us forward in mission and ministry for the coming year.

Between now and then, the nominating committee will be seeking out names of people willing to serve on Church Council, the Memorial/Legacy Committee, up to three people willing to represent CLC at the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly in May, and a few other positions. If you would like to nominate someone or would like more information please contact a member of the nominating committee: Chris Thompson, Steve Delisi or Andy Wallace.

The Annual Report of the Mission and Ministry of Christ Lutheran will be available on-line and in print no later than January 24. Submissions for the Annual Report need to be turned in by Sunday, January 18.

TRADITIONAL SWEDISH DINNER

FEATURING LUTEFISK AND SWEDISH MEATBALLS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21ST

11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Continuous Seating)



The Swedish Dinner is put on every year by volunteers.

Sign ups are next to the church office now to help prepare/setup/serve/cleanup and/or donate food items (such as butter, potatoes, and cookies). There is something for everyone willing to volunteer: from waiting and bussing tables, to peeling potatoes (that group has a fun time), to washing dishes, to those who prepare the bread, cookies and coffee. No experience required! The Swedish Dinner is one of the two main fundraisers each year for WELCA (Women of the ELCA) —all the proceeds go towards mission projects. If you have not participated before, it is so much more fun than work. A great way to meet new members and those people you see every Sunday but whom you don't know.

And finally, help us spread the word. Although the church has been receiving calls asking about "Lutefisk" since October (not bragging, but CLC's is considered one of the best in the area, so people plan ahead) - we also know that many people do not know about our dinner, so invite your neighbors and friends to come with you.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$20 for adults and only \$6 for children 6yrs—6th grade. Children 5 & under are free.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR HANNAH...

New Year. Same God.

Happy New Year!

2016 is a new start. Our theme of "Nourish" is especially fitting this time of year. We long to be nourished as we greet the new year, and we are reignited to nourish others as we look to the months ahead.

For many of us, we welcome the change in calendar. 2015 was a difficult year. We lost loved ones. We experienced hardship. We longed for better days.

For others, we long to hold on to 2015 for a while longer. We celebrated births, marriages, and anniversaries. We lived fully. We see that a changing world can be a scary place and want to hold onto the past as best as we can.

But whether we like it or not, 2016 is here. With it brings:

New hopes.

New prayers.

New resolutions.

New ministries.

New friends.

New challenges.

New ways to be nourished.

New opportunities to nourish others.



But one thing never changes: God's promises for you. Our God of steadfastness and encouragement welcomes this new year with you. No matter what lies ahead, God has promised you will not be alone. No matter the wrongs we will do or the rights we will fail to do, God has promised forgiveness. No matter what despair we may face, God has promised abundant and eternal life.

I look forward to our year ahead! I am excited to work with you and alongside of you as we practice and live out faith formation with children, youth, and families. Know we are holding you in our daily prayers as you work and play, live and serve.

Enter 2016 knowing that these promises are yours, they are mine and they are everyone's. As we live into this year, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13).

With Joy,

Pastor Hannah



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Sherri Reid

Ruth Willius

Sharon Remick

Martha Albertson

Helen Josephson

Bob Davis

Lawrence Smith

Bertha Klinefelter

Dorothy Krinke

Luise Mills

Vern Pennie

Betty Brink (*friend of Sue and Dan Knefelkamp*)

Emily Norklun (*granddaughter of Howie Eckstrom*)

Phil Opperthausen (*brother-in-law of Steve and Leigh Delisi*)

Scott Mondor (*brother of Matt Mondor*)

Deb Krinke (*friend of Laura Langreck & Lori Tryon*)

Janice Lahman (*friend of Sherri Reid*)

Cindy (*co-worker of Sandy Uργο*)

Jonathan Hempel (*nephew of Kay Hempel*)

Steve Bartz (*friend of Lon and Pat Pardun*)

Jerry and Judy Carlson (*brother & sister-in-law of Lynn Holt*)

Joanne Machaud (*cousin of Ginny Sjoquist*)

Mary Lauer (*friend of Dodo Schouweiler*)

Pam Zawistowski (*Linda Mendenhall's sister-in-law*)

Please contact the church office if you would like someone added or removed from our Prayer List.

SERVING IN GOD'S WORLD WITH LOVE



Help Always Wanted... Help Always Appreciated

Christ Lutheran has a number of opportunities for service! Get "on mission" by giving some time weekly/monthly/occasionally to help CLC serve in God's world with love.

Seeking a Volunteer...

who is willing to check in with the office bi-weekly to see if there are tablecloths from fellowship time and other events that need to be laundered (and then laundering them). If this is something you can help out with, please call Laura in the church office.

Visiting Nursing Home Residents / Home Bound members

While we encourage visits to the members of CLC who are in the nursing home or are home bound throughout the year, we especially would encourage you to make time during the new year to visit one or more of our home and nursing bound. If you have never done this before, be assured that the most important thing is your presence. You will never know what a difference you can make in the lives of those in nursing homes and those home bound, and what a difference they can make in you. You can get a list of the names of the people currently needing visits from the church office. See Pastors Joel or Hannah for more information.

2016 Volunteer Sign-ups

We are in need of a lot of people to sign up for many different things that happen at CLC! To name a few...Fellowship Hosts, Kids' Church leaders, Bread and Wine / Coffee Sponsors and more! Next time you're in, take a look at the kiosk. Thank you!

Valley Outreach Food Shelf Donations

Each month a volunteer from CLC delivers the donations that are in the entry. Checking the cart in the entry-way each week and delivering the donations is all it takes! The sign up is on the kiosk.

equipping community empowering learning Jesus Christ
 prayer Baptismal Calling Ever-Deepening Relationship
 worship
 Life Experience
 Faith Formation
 Life-Long Process intentional service
 unleashing

This Winter We Welcome and
 Invite You to be Part of a
 Faith Formation
 Activity/Class @
 Christ Lutheran.



The cast of
 “The Backward Christmas”
 (a few pictured above) raised over
 \$1,350 for the ELCA Good Gifts
 program.
 WELL DONE, KIDS!

February 26-27
 Confirmation
 Students, watch
 your inboxes for
 more info next
 month!



**Jesus Loves You SNOW Much
 Epiphany Party**

Join us after worship on Sunday, January 10 for a simple, light lunch and then snow tubing at Trollhaugen. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$10 for up to three hours of tubing. Sign up on the kiosk by Thursday, January 7.

JOIN US FOR LIFE NIGHT THIS WINTER!

Wednesday Night Life Night Schedule

5:15-6:15pm—Dinner is Served. The suggested donation is \$5 a person or max \$20 a family. Pre-paid punch cards are available.

5:40-6:15pm—Almost Angels and CREDO Practice

6:15-7:30pm—Life Night Classes for Children

6:30-7:30pm—Adult Education

6:30-7:40pm—Confirmation Class for 7th, 8th and 9th Graders

7:15-8:30pm—Steeple Singers Adult Choir





MYSTERY Youth Outing with Pastor Hannah

- Tuesday, February 23
- After school
- for 6th-12th graders
- Cost is \$15
- Space is limited
- Sign up with Pastor Hannah

Save these dates!

VBS 2016—July 25-29

WAPO Seeds—July 29-31

WAPO—July 31-August 5

CLC Family Camp—August 11-14

Adult Education in January

Join us for a conversation around our intentions for health and wellness at the beginning of the new year - both for the individual and family. As we all know, the new year is a time when people declare their resolutions to do things differently and lose X-amount of pounds, eat better, and be more active - and that's just from the physical body side. Desires to pray more and change spiritual and emotional health resonate with people, too. Jennifer Lutz, from True Health will be here on January 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room to talk about some ways we can Nourish ourselves in 2016. All are welcome!



True Health

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

Nutrition Counseling · Dispensary

Living Nourished

Lent 2016

This year during the weeks of Lent we will explore what it means, what it looks like, and what is needed to go through the days of our life **Living Nourished**.

Using Romans 12 as our guide (*Romans 12 is sometimes referred as a chapter in the Bible that outlines the Christian life*), each week during Lent we will explore and examine how our lives are nourished: **In Loving, In Rejoicing, In Contributing, In Blessing, and In Living in Community**.

Throughout the season of Lent we will invite you to bring in pictures to help tell the story of the things, the people and the events in your life that nourish you. Watch for more details in February.

We will also be putting together a Lenten devotional this year. As in previous years, each day's devotion will be written by a member/friend of CLC. Watch for the sign up near the end of January.

Some Dates to Keep in Mind:

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 10th and Continuing Each Wednesday During Lent there are **Worship services at noon and 6:30 p.m.**

Soup/Sandwich Meal Served after the noon service and starting at 5:00 p.m. prior to the 6:30 p.m. service.



Bring Your Own Brain

Join Pastor Joel for
Bible Study this winter on
Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

OR

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
in the Fireside Room.

All are welcome!

Pancake Breakfast



~Christ Lutheran Church~
Benefitting Red Bridge Preschool

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
8:30-11:15 AM

~FREE WILL OFFERING~
JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!



redbridgepreschool.com



In January, we will do a movie and lunch day. Please check the bulletin and the Nyman center for more details.

On Wednesday, February 17th, we will have our annual Mid-winter luncheon right after bible study. Cost will be \$12 per person. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift. The menu will be on the sign up sheet in the Nyman center.

On Tuesday, February 23rd, we will be going to the YMCA to learn about their senior program followed by lunch at Norman Quacks in Forest Lake. We will leave the church at 9:30 AM and should arrive back at church around 2 PM. Cost is \$5. Lunch is additional.



Celebrating Santa Lucia in December...



Steeple Singers will resume rehearsal on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:15 p.m. No rehearsal on January 6th.

A blessing as you begin the New Year:

May you be blessed with sudden insights and inspiration.

May you be graced with quiet moments of simplicity and reflection.

May you be supported by your loved ones when you need them, and may you be a source of strength to those around you.

May you receive embraces from parents, children, and long lost friends.

May you pick up a hobby that you have always wanted to do, and may you say goodbye to habits and thoughts that have become a burden for you.

May you forgive those who have hurt you, and may you have the courage to make amends when needed.

May you hear the joy and the sorrow of this great universe in which we live, and may you—and us all—be blessed with peace.

Christ Lutheran Church
150 Fifth Street
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047



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TRADITIONAL
Swedish Dinner

*Please join us on
January 21!*

*Tickets will be
available at the door.*

*\$20 for adults
\$6 for kids 6 yrs. – 6th
grade
5 yrs. and under free*

**all proceeds from the dinner
support local and international
mission work*

Christ Lutheran Church
150 FIFTH STREET ~ MARINE ON ST CROIX

**Keep up to date with the events
and ministry of Christ Lutheran!**

CLCMARINE.ORG

Our website is updated weekly with announcements and bi-monthly with the an online version of the Steeple to People Newsletter and each month's calendar. You can also find archived Steeple to People editions. You can also watch Pastor Joel's and Pastor Hannah's sermons. If you can't find what you're looking for on the website, find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/clcmarine