

# Steeple to People

January & February 2019



We have seen you wear them in church, but where else are you wearing your “I’m Relentless” shirts? While it is great to see you wear them on Sunday mornings, our hope is you might wear them other times during the week, too. If for no other reason as a way to remind yourself to be grateful. To remind yourself that you are a person of grace and generosity. And if you can, take a picture of you wearing the shirt, email it to us, and tell us where you were.

Has anyone asked you about the shirts while you were wearing them? If asked about what it means—what do you say? Let us know, we would love to share “I’m Relentless” stories throughout the coming year.



## Being Relentless

At the center of our ministry theme for 2019 - “Relentless” - is an understanding of not giving up. That day by day throughout the coming year we are challenging each other to wake up with an understanding of faith which propels us to be Relentlessly Gracious, Relentlessly Generous, and Relentlessly Grateful—three things that too often seem to be of short supply in our current lives and culture. It’s too easy to get stuck on what we don’t have, consumed with the understanding of wanting more, not having enough, living lives of scarcity. It’s too easy to get sucked into debates and arguments causing deep and lasting wounds and divisions, leading us to be anything but gracious. Throughout the Bible there are stories after stories showing how this struggle is anything but new.

Being Relentlessly Gracious, Grateful, and Generous does not mean we give up our own beliefs and convictions, but it does mean believing there is a way to disagree without being disparaging toward the other. There is a way to allow a space for growth and understanding (even if it never leads to agreement). It comes from an understanding that we all have something to offer, and that life is precious and fleeting. It comes from an understanding of being bound by the Gospel teachings of Jesus, where time after time, Jesus presents an understanding of faith that isn’t bound by dogma and correct beliefs, but more about a way of seeing, being and living in the world with one’s self, with God and with others.

### Need an “I’m Relentless” Shirt?

We have shirts still available in a variety of sizes. We will have them on a table in the Nyman Center from Sunday, Jan 20 - Jan 27. Pick one up.

Take it home. And wear it this year.

## Christ Lutheran Church

150 Fifth Street  
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047

clcmarine.org

Church Office: 651-433-3222

### Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. & 9:45 a.m.

Coffee & Treats between services

### Pastors & Staff

**Joel Martin**, *Pastor*

clcpastorjoel@frontiernet.net

Home: 651-433-9952

Cell: 651-323-0486

**Hannah Bartos**, *Pastor*

clcpastorhannah@frontier.com

Cell: 612-205-1610

**Laura Langreck**, *Office Manager,*

*Almost Angels Choir, RBPS Bookkeeper*

christmsc@frontiernet.net

**Kathy Trombly-Ferrin**, *Finance Sec.*

clcfinance@frontier.com

**Susan Foss & Kathy Marker**,

*Adventurers, susancl@frontiernet.net*

**Cheryl Reinitz**, *Treasurer*

clctreasurer@frontiernet.net

Cell: 651-357-4854

**Charlie Anderson**, *Custodian*

**Bob Waedekin**, *Organist,*

*Steeple Singers Choir, Music Coord.*

### Church Council

Chris Getchell, President, 433.5135

Suzanne Pollack, Vice Pres., 433.3207

Anne Gardner, Secretary, 439.7289

Cheryl Reinitz, Treasurer, 357.4854

Marcy Wirth, 433.3278

Steve Plummer, 206.9852

Jody Nyenhuis, 257.7399

Lester Rydeen, 433.3282

Eric Tryon, 491.6263

Kathy Marker, 433.4149

Bill Eggers, 433.3217

Pat Pardun, 433.2130

### Red Bridge Preschool

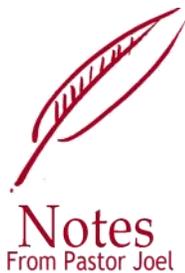
**Elizabeth Weisberg**

*Director & Lead Teacher*

Phone: 651-433-3222

redbridge@frontier.com

**Christine Dettmann**, *Twos' Teacher*



I have had the honor and privilege of presiding well over 100 funerals since I started here at Christ Lutheran now almost 10 years ago. Some of those who died lived in the community but were not necessarily members of the church, and others were maybe active members of the church decades ago, but in recent years not so much – the majority of those who died were actively involved in the ministry we share at Christ Lutheran. Considering the size of our church, their deaths represent a rather significant loss for our church. A loss that was and continues to be felt in many ways.

The obvious one is simply physical presence on Sunday mornings and during other times throughout the week. To this day many people can remember them in our worship space sitting in their “normal” spot – and it just doesn’t seem the same seeing someone else sitting there. Many used to be readers or helped with altar guild or ushered. They sang in the choir. They helped with maintenance, drove the bus, served on church councils and other committees. They helped teach children and worked with the youth. They carried with them a wealth of experience in terms of the history and functioning of the church. They knew what needed to be done and often would step up and volunteer. Sometimes even doing it without even being asked.

Then there is the financial loss. Whether they gave \$5 a week, \$20, \$100 or more – it all adds up. According to recent data, contributions to churches across the country are down almost 50% over the last 25 years. Some of this has to do with older, long-term members of churches dying or moving away. It is often reported that for every person or family over 70 who dies or leaves a church you need three new people or families to make up the financial difference. And while I know it is a sensitive subject to talk about money and the church, at the end of the day there is a financial reality to the deaths we have experienced.

One of the points of pride I have over the last 10 years is that our average attendance is about the same it was I first arrived. 10 years ago we were averaging around 220-230 in worship and we are about the same today. Even if only 60 of the 100 or so people who have died were active worship attenders – that still is about 25% of our average attenders who have died. To be able to have maintained our attendance levels means we

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## NOTES FROM PASTOR JOEL CONTINUED...

have experienced about 25% growth during the same time period. During the same time period we have maintained balanced budgets and have even seen an increase in giving (not to mention taking on a significant capital campaign).

All that being said, one of the most significant ways the loss of these people has been felt is through the many ways they welcomed people to CLC. Upon hearing the news that someone has died I inevitably will hear someone else say, *“I didn’t know them well, but they were the first person who talked to me when I first came to Christ Lutheran.”* Or I hear *“I remember the first time I attended worship and we were sitting alone, and they got up and introduced themselves to us and sat with us.”* Sometimes I even hear people say, *“I just moved into the area and I was at the General Store and they invited me to come to the church.”*

I wonder who is doing this now? I wonder who is seeing a new person or family on a Sunday morning sitting by themselves in the sanctuary or standing by themselves in the Nyman Center – and I wonder who is willing to welcome them, sit with them, talk with them. I wonder who is seeing a new neighbor move into the area, or meeting a new person while having coffee in town and is willing to invite them to join them some Sunday at CLC. Maybe you?

~ Pastor Joel

## TRADITIONAL SWEDISH DINNER FEATURING LUTEFISK AND SWEDISH MEATBALLS THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (continuous seating)

The Swedish Dinner is put on every year by volunteers. And we still have a spot open for you! Sign ups are still in the Nyman Center now. You can 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 scrubbing potatoes, 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 our dinner 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. Youth 16 & under are **free** with a paying adult.*



# Christmas Eve at ELC



"I'll honor Christmas  
in my heart and try  
keep it all year."  
-Charles Dickens





# ANNUAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 ~ 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 2019, 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](#), [Marj Hagen](#) and [Ellen Johnson](#).

The Annual Report of the Mission and Ministry of Christ Lutheran will be available no later than January 20.

Submissions for the Annual Report need to be turned in by Sunday, January 13.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# A LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR JOEL

In Honor and Celebration of his  
10 year Anniversary with us at CLC

Sunday, January 27 at 12:30 p.m.

The luncheon will follow the Annual Meeting.

*During the luncheon, there will be a short presentation/program,  
including an "open mic" time for sharing and story telling with Pastor Joel.*

Cards to Pastor Joel are welcome either the day of the luncheon or if you are not able to attend, but would like to drop off a card, you can do so by using one of the card boxes found outside the sanctuary.

Monetary contributions toward a congregational/community gift can be mailed or dropped off with attention to:

KATHY TROMBLY-FERRIN, (FINANCIAL SECRETARY). 'PASTOR JOEL'S GIFT' IN THE MEMO.

Whether you've known Joel for 10 years, or 2 weeks, come celebrate with us!  
It won't be the same without you!

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED: Happy New Year! 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYO Brain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>10</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11:00 AM Bob Armitage funeral
<b>13</b> ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Nelson Christmas party 1:45 PM Adventurers: Triple Espresso	<b>14</b> 6:45 PM Church Council	<b>15</b> Swedish Dinner setup 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>16</b> Swedish Dinner setup 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYO Brain Bible Study 5:30 PM - Pizza dinner 6:00 PM - Almost Angels 6:30 PM - Bingo! (and prizes)	<b>17</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM Traditional Swedish Dinner	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Free Blood Pressure Checks 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship 2:00 PM Mission Jamaica orientation	<b>21</b> 12:00 PM Tubing at Trollhaugen 7:00 PM Men's Book Club	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Quilting group 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYO Brain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>24</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM Luncheon in honor of Pastor Joel's 10 yr. Anniversary at CLC	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>30</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYO Brain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>31</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 PM Luncheon in honor of Pastor Joel's 10 yr. Anniversary at CLC	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>30</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYOBrain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>31</b> Women's Dog Sled Trip 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Quilting group 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYOBrain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>7</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>8</b> 5:00 PM Wedding rehearsal	<b>9</b> 2:30 PM Lossing/Bowen wedding  Mission Jamaica
<b>10</b> Mission Jamaica 8:15 AM Worship 9:00-11:30 AM RBPS Pancake Breakfast 9:45 AM Worship	<b>11</b> Mission Jamaica 6:45 PM Church Council	<b>12</b> Mission Jamaica 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>13</b> Mission Jamaica 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>14</b> Mission Jamaica 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>15</b> Mission Jamaica	<b>16</b> Mission Jamaica
<b>17</b> 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Free Blood Pressure Checks 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship 3:00 PM "Waking Up White" @ Gustavus Aldophus Lutheran	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Mystery Outing for CLC kids 7:00 PM Men's Book Club	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Quilting group 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Girl Scouts 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYOBrain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>21</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>22</b> EPIC Youth Lock-in @ Trinity Lutheran	<b>23</b> EPIC Youth Lock-in @Trinity Lutheran
<b>24</b> LENTEN DEVOTIONS DUE 8:15 AM Worship 9:15 AM Treats, Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 AM Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Newsletter assembly 12:15 PM CLC Staff meeting 8:00 PM AA/Al-Anon	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM BYOBrain Bible Study 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Life Night	<b>28</b> 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast @ Scandia Cafe	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

# Pancake Breakfast



~Christ Lutheran Church~  
Benefitting Red Bridge Preschool

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
**9-11:30 AM**

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

~sponsored by the Scandia-Marine Lions Club and  
Red Bridge Preschool~



IN NEED  
OF PRAYER

## ONGOING CONCERNS:

Lois Elsenpeter, Don Maurer, Bob Davis,  
Larry Gilbert, Lori Peterson, Ray Raffel, Earl  
Erickson, Ron Hackmann, Norb Wrobel

Lynnsey Mostad (friend of Neil and Ellen  
Johnson)

Pat Dittmar (aunt of Matt Mondor)

Nancy Weflen (niece of Bonnie Worth)

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

## Serving in God's World with Love



### 2018 Volunteer Sign-ups

We are in need of a lot of people to sign up for many different things that hap-pen 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!



**Save the date for the  
next Blood Drive at CLC**

**Friday, February 15**



For over 25 years Christ Lutheran has been part of Mission Jamaica - most of the years having our mission group go to Garland Hall Children's Home outside of Montego Bay. This year our mission team will be in Jamaica from February 9-16 making needed repairs to the orphanage and spending time with the 22 children who live there. This year there are seven people from Christ Lutheran who are joining people from other churches for our Mission Jamaica week.



Each year we hold a "Christmas in February" celebration with the children, and this year will be no exception. But we will need your help. Watch for information in the coming weeks on ways you can help support the efforts of our 2019 Mission Jamaica team.

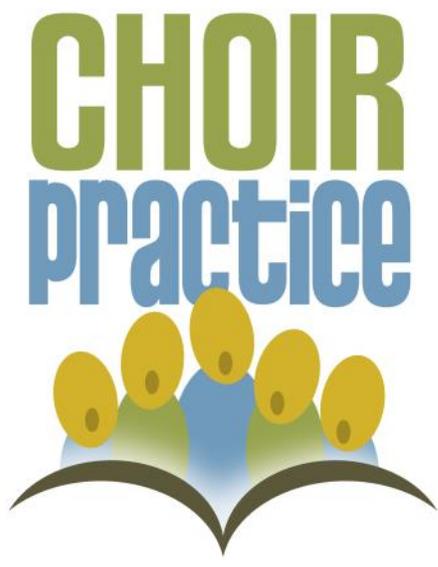


And although it might be too late to be part of the trip this year - maybe you can join us in 2020. See Bill Eggers, Tom Nyman or Dan Froiland for more information.



Ash Wednesday, March 6, marks the beginning of Lent. If you would like to be a part of the beloved tradition of Christ Lutheran's Lenten Devotional, the sign up seeking writers will be available at the beginning of February. Devotions will then be due back by February 24. Please read the weekly bulletin announcements and Rootings emails in the coming weeks for more information about Lent at Christ Lutheran.

The Together in Grief Group will meet on Saturdays January 12 & 26 from 10:00-11:30. We meet in the Fireside Room unless otherwise specified. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome to join us. The focus of the group is on supporting each other through the changes that grief brings and, as one group member recently stated, "learning how to live." The group is open to anyone in the community. All are welcome! If you have questions about the group - please contact Lon or Pat Pardun at 651-433-2130.



Steeple Singers Choir is taking a break from Wednesday night rehearsals. The choir will begin rehearsing again on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. If you've thought about joining the choir before, but haven't yet, just show up on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Director, Bob Waedekin, if you have any questions.



# Campaign Update

## You Are Making a Difference!

Have you noticed the stained glass windows in the sanctuary lately? During November and December the old coverings were removed and replaced with new tempered glass coverings. The difference was instant and dramatic. There are colors in the stained glass that even long term members of the church never noticed. If you drive by at night or during the day you now can clearly see the beauty, the colors and the designs of the windows from the outside. And over the past few weeks we have even heard a somewhat joking 'complaint' that the sanctuary now might be too bright on Sunday mornings. The replacement of the coverings was long overdue, but thanks to your support of the Renew, Revitalize, Restore campaign we were able to make this improvement along with many others over the course of 2018. Thank you. You are making a difference!



## Take a Look...

In-between worship services throughout the month of January we invite you to take a look at the television in the Nyman Center. There will be a presentation showing where we are in the Renew, Revitalize, Restore campaign. It details what we were able to accomplish in 2018, areas of focus and attention in 2019, and the plans for 2020 and 2021.

An update on the campaign will also be part of the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27th.



Many THANKS to those of you who have made contributions to the Renew, Revitalize and Restore campaign. Whether it was a one time gift or

a commitment to make contributions over the entire five years of the campaign - your commitment allows us to address some of the needs of our facility while at the same time plan for the present and future of the ministry we share together at CLC.

If you have not pledged or made a commitment—you still can! See Pastor Joel or drop by the church office to pick up information about the goals and priorities of the Renew, Revitalize and Restore campaign and how you can be part of it.

# family faith formation

## **CLC BINGO: Food, Fellowship, & Fun**

Wednesday, January 16

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Pizza Supper (\$5/person or \$20/family)

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bingo! All ages are encouraged to come and be a part of the fun and have a chance to win a prize! Suggested donation of \$5 per family benefiting a charity yet TBD.

## **Jesus Loves Us SNOW Much! CLC Tubing Adventure**

Join us for a fun day of tubing and fellowship on Monday, January 21 at Trollhaugen in Dresser, WI. We will meet there at 12 p.m. Cost is \$13/person if 20 or more people sign up and includes three hours of tubing. Sign up with Pastor Hannah by Wednesday, January 16. Trollhaugen's recommendation is that all tubers be 42" or taller.



## **Presidents' Day Mystery Outing**

Children, youth, and families are invited to join us for a mystery day on February 18. How will the day be spent? It's a secret. But know it will include a service project and a fun outing. Cost is \$5/person. Sign up with Pastor Hannah by Sunday, February 10.

## **Go Tail It on the Mountain!**

More than \$2,200 was raised through ELCA Good Gifts in December. Thank you, CLC, for supporting our kids' project to help transform lives around the world. Your generosity of buying goats, chicks, pigs, and other animals and projects will go down in history.

## **EPIC Youth Lock-In**

Save the date for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders: Friday, February 22-Saturday, February 23. We will join area churches for an EPIC overnight of fun, fellowship, service, and worship. More information coming soon!



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

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Marine on St. Croix, MN  
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**Email or address change? Please let the church office know.**

Keep up to date with the events and ministry of Christ Lutheran by visiting our website at

**[WWW.CLCMARINE.ORG](http://WWW.CLCMARINE.ORG)**

Find weekly announcements, newsletters, sermon videos, photos and more.

If you can't find what you're looking for on the website, find us on Facebook or Instagram!

