

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

MARCH & APRIL 2016

NOURISHED BY

Throughout the season of Lent we hope you join us at Christ Lutheran as we engage in worship and conversation which will encourage us to explore the ways God nourishes us and in turn invites us to nourish others with...



LOVE



JOY



SERVICE



BLESSING



COMMUNITY

Mid-week Lenten Worship

Through March 16th, we hope you join us for 30 minute Lenten Worship on Wednesdays at Noon and 6:30 p.m. A soup/sandwich meal follows the noon service and is served starting at 5:15 p.m. prior to the 6:30 service. Through Scripture, music and drama, the worship services will focus on a different way our lives are nourished by the Grace of God in our lives.

Palm Sunday / Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 20th ~ Worship at 8:15 and 9:45

Maundy Thursday, March 24th ~ Worship at 6:30

Good Friday, March 25th ~ Worship at Noon and 6:30

NOURISHED BY LOOKING

According to the Gospel of Luke, when Peter heard the news the tomb was empty he went running to the tomb and "stooping and LOOKING" in he came to believe.

Join us on Easter Sunday, March 27th as we celebrate Easter with worship services at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

There will be an Easter Breakfast served from 8:45 -11:00.

An Easter egg hunt will follow the 11:00 service.

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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

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"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



As of February I have been a Pastor at Christ Lutheran for 7 years. To put that in perspective only four other pastors in the 144 year history of CLC have been here longer (Pastor J.A. LeVine, Pastor A.J. Johnson, Pastor Gustav Sanstead and Pastor Thomas Nyman). While I might pass a few of them in the years to come, I am pretty confident Pastor Nyman's tenure will remain on

the top of that list. I bring this little piece of trivia up for two reasons. First, to say I am humbled and honored to not only be part of the company of such great leaders, but also humbled and honored to have partnered with you in the ministry of CLC for the last seven years. Together I think we continue to strive to follow where God is leading - shaping us to be a church open to transformation and change - a church willing to explore new ways of being in our community and world.

The main reason however for bringing this up has to do with the file cabinet I brought with me. It is a short two drawer file cabinet filled with papers, articles, reports and other stuff which for some reason I thought important enough to keep. I kid you not, in my seven years of being pastor here at CLC I have opened the file cabinet three times (and even then I might be exaggerating on the high side). My wife would say I should not even look at what's inside. I should just throw everything out. *"If you haven't needed it in seven years, you probably don't need it."* She's right (don't tell her I just said that). But I still can't seem to follow through. Irrationally I have convinced myself the day I throw it all out will be the day I need what I have kept so safe and secure all these years. The fact I don't even know what's inside the file cabinet at this point is also irrationally not important. So the file cabinet sits in my office more for the stuff I put on top of it, then for what's inside.

The same mentality pops up in other aspects of my life, too. I have learned I am not a good gardener. And while there are many reasons why this is true - one main reason is the struggle I have with pruning. Whether we are talking about the apple trees, raspberry bushes or basil plants in my yard - they all need pruning in order to grow and thrive. I know this to be true. But whenever I go out to do some pruning I usually end up spending a few minutes looking at and circling around the tree, bush or plant before I put the pruning shears back in the garage and go inside having made no cuts. *"What if I cut off too many leaves? What if I cut the wrong branch?"* It is better to be safe than sorry. So why am I surprised when I only get a handful of raspberries each year?

Of course this relates to how we see and understand the church. 144 years is a long time to be the church in Marine on Saint Croix and the

Pastor's Notes—Continued on Next Page

surrounding communities. Literally and figuratively there are many papers, files, instructions and expectations on the ways of doing things that have been kept around over the years. Literally and figuratively there are branches that are overgrown and in dire need of being pruned. *“But what if we....”*

It is an exciting, somewhat scary time to be part of the ministry of Christ Lutheran. Reflecting the demographics of the communities around us, we are getting a little older. The needs of some of our community is changing. How do we respond? At the same time we are seeing and welcoming in younger families into our community and church. It's exciting to see these new faces, this new growth. What are we doing as a church that is welcoming and open to not only new faces, but possible new ideas, new understandings of what it means to be the church? The building is facing some challenges, too. In the hopes of being good stewards of our resources we have tried to get by over the years with “Band-Aids” when it came to making fixes and replacing things around the church. The “Band-Aids” are no longer holding and we will face some major expenses in the coming months (and years). Whether we like them or not, changes are coming to Marine on Saint Croix and the surrounding communities and these changes will affect us as a church. There is the possible closing of Marine Elementary, the possibility of a charter school replacing it, the road work planned for County Road 4 - these and other changes around us will challenge us to change our understanding of what it means to be the church for our community. All these (and many other changes around us) will require going through the old. It will mean holding on to what is still valuable and needed. It will mean being willing to let go of what really no longer matters, or what really no longer is needed for us to be the church. It will mean doing some pruning in order to grow and thrive. In the coming months I hope we find ways to be in conversation about what it means to be the church open to transformation and change - a church willing to explore new ways of being in our community and world.

~ Pastor Joel

WHY ECO-PALMS?



You may notice this Palm Sunday that our palms look different than past years. Here's why we made the change...

In the typical palm trade:

- Large floral export firms encourage over-harvesting: they pay by volume for palms and then throw away large amounts that aren't export quality.
- Over-harvesting damages forests where the palm plants thrive.
- Forests are depleted and palm-selling communities lose this important source of income.

How are Eco-Palms different?

- The palms are gathered and sold in a socially and environmentally just way.
- Harvesters are paid a fair price per palm based on quality, so they take fewer palms out of the forest, which protects important nature reserves.
- Community members sort, package and sell the palms themselves — not via middlemen — so more of the money paid for the palms stays with the people who worked the hardest to provide them.
- Because there is a steady market for the palms, locals are motivated to protect the forests (their source of income), ensuring harvests well into the future.
- Harvesting communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment per frond.

The Lord Knows

The Lord knows
how much time was spent
on cutting, sewing and quilting.

The Lord knows
who came to help and gave their time,
who brought us material and gave us yarn.

The Lord knows
the joy we felt as quilts appeared.
Some were nice and some were nicer.

The Lord knows
how many were made,
how often we drove to quilting.

The Lord knows
the joy we shared with those in need
who are now wrapped and warm.

The Lord knows
we enjoy the work and will continue.
We want no thanks or accolades.

The Lord knows
and we didn't keep score.

Our dedicated CLC Quilters meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. In 2015, they quilted and gave away over 50 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, the battered women's shelter, The Eagle's Nest, and to ministry for the homeless. They are always looking for more hands. No experience? No problem! They are great teachers.

THANK YOU, CHRIST LUTHERAN!

The staff and families of Red Bridge Preschool would like to thank everyone who attended our pancake breakfast.

We are very grateful to the Scandia Marine Lions for donating their time to prepare our meal. Over \$1,500 was raised for our scholarship fund. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!



COMMUNITY GARDEN 2016

Spring is coming! Join us on Wednesday, March 16th from 5:45-6:15 p.m. as we plant seeds for our garden. Sunday, March 20th is the first day of Spring and you can adopt plants to take home until they are ready to be outside. It's as easy as placing the plants in the sun and watering them a few times a week!

RED BRIDGE PRESCHOOL REGISTER FOR FALL 2015! UP TO A 5 DAY PRESCHOOL OPTION!

Red Bridge Preschool is open to all families and all children in the community. We currently serve families from Marine, Scandia, Hugo, Stillwater and Wisconsin. Red Bridge offers an excellent early childhood program by preparing children for a lifetime of learning adventures. Our students go to kindergarten feeling confident, loving school and ready to continue learning.

There are classes on M/W/F for 4 and 5 year olds and T/Th for 3 and 4 years olds, both with the option to add days for up to a 5 day preschool week. We also offer a Tremendous Twos class for 2 year olds on Wednesdays. It is not too early to register for fall—class size is limited. We invite you to tell the families you know who have preschool age children about Red Bridge!

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Jessica Hansen at 433-3222. Visit clcmarine.org and click on the Red Bridge Preschool page.



Firearms Safety & Hunter Education



CLC will be hosting a DNR sponsored firearms safety/hunter education class for students who are 11 years and older. All students must be pre-registered. The class will begin on Thursdays starting on March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.. A parent or guardian must accompany the student to the classes. Classes will be held on the following Thursdays, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.:

March 3, 17, 31, April 7 and 14 with a field day on Saturday, April 16.

To register or for more information contact:
Bob Appert at 651-633-1039

Silent Auction

Mark your calendars for the
Annual Youth Silent Auction
April 3 & 10

Now accepting donations—gift baskets, certificates, creative gift ideas, the possibilities are endless! Funds raised are used to help send our Youth on Summer Mission trips & camps. There are donation forms in the church office. See Sandy Mondor, Lynn Holt or Sue Knepfkamp for more info.

WONDERINGS ON WEDNESDAYS

Join us for WOW (Wonderings on Wednesdays) throughout the season of Lent.

Each Wednesday we will gather from 5:45-6:15PM for a time to explore and expand our Lenten theme of "Nourished by..." It will be an interactive time of learning that is open to all ages. While primarily for children and youth we hope adults (parents and non-parents) will join us too, and help make it an inter-generational activity. Come the weeks that work for you and your family.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR HANNAH...

By the time this arrives in your mailboxes, I hope and pray there is less snow on the ground, the temperatures have risen and the earth has begun its spring awakening.

We are in a unique place in the church year right now as we transition between Lent and Easter. We are well on our way, but we are not there yet.

Today is a turning point.

We may be tired of this journeying and long winter, but as we remember in this year's reading from Isaiah 43:16-21, we are not alone. The prophet Isaiah spoke to the Israelites who had been on a long journey themselves. After living in captivity for decades, separated from their customs and rituals, away from the place that gave them their identity and calling, God spoke to them through Isaiah and transformed their lives.

God said to them, "I am about to do a new thing." God told them to forget the things of old, the judgment and harsh words that had come before because of their sinful ways. "God will do a new thing—do you not perceive it?" It was a fresh start for the Israelites, a turning point.

These transformational words are ones for us to live by as we set our eyes on Holy Week. God's promise to Israel that day and God's promise to us today is that God will do a new thing. God will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

God wasn't saying that life was going to be easy. The Israelites knew that all too well, as we know too. But God continues to create and bring life, even in the piles of snow, homework, housework and to-do lists.

What if for the rest of this Lenten season we took time to focus more on perceiving and recognizing what God is making new for us each day? What if in anticipation of Easter morning we get out of bed and go and look for signs of the Holy Spirit making things new? Instead of dwelling on the past, what if we remember the blessing we have? As followers of the crucified and risen Christ, what if we journey out into the world in search of the things that continue to spring forth life, faith, hope and love?

God is present. God is transforming us. God is bringing new, abundant life, to you, today.

As we look toward Easter, what an opportune time to praise God, encourage others, lend a helping hand and spread joy. What better way to banish the gloom of winter? What better way to anticipate the new life of spring? What better way to make room for Easter and the empty tomb?

We no longer need to dwell on the past. We only need to open our eyes and hearts to see the power and presence of our loving God.

Today is a turning point. Are you ready?

With Joy,
Pastor Hannah



Chuck Nelson
Dawn Ziegelski
Ruth Willius
Sharon Remick
Bob Davis
Bertha Klinefelter
Luise Mills
Vern Pennie
Lee Ferrin-Rierson (*mother of Randy Ferrin*)
Laurie Greene (*cousin of Dave Ledo*)
Greg Meyers (*son of Laura and Gary Meyers-summer motorcyclists*)
Jim Mondor (*father of Matt Mondor*)
Phil Oppertbauer (*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 Urgo*)
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.

Feed My Starving Children: Join a crew to help out at Hosanna Lutheran Church's Mobile Packing Event April 1-2. Details coming soon.

Silent Auction to benefit children and youth summer ministries: April 3 and April 10. Can you donate an item or a basket? Talk to Pastor Hannah.



Yes, our congregation will take part in the **BASKETS OF PROMISE** Lenten appeal!



This Lenten season, our congregation is taking part in Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise appeal. Each week in Lent, we'll collect items to form LWR Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Check the bulletin each week for the collection schedule or the display in the Nyman Center. Our goal is to assemble 100 kits. We will gather on March 30th at 6:30 p.m. to assemble the Personal Care Kits. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Langreck in the church office. **We are collecting bars of soap (any brand, 4-5 oz.), dark colored bath towels (light-weight, standard size), wide-toothed combs, adult sized toothbrushes, and metal nail clippers.**

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



First Communion Class: Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for children, youth, and adults interested in learning about the sacrament. The faith step will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, March 6 at the 9:45 a.m. worship service.

3rd Grade Bibles: Third graders are welcome to join a special celebration of a faith step as they receive Bibles as a gift from the congregation. Class will take place at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 and then will be presented in worship at 9:45 a.m. Sign up with Pastor Hannah.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATES AND SIGN UP TODAY!

Senior High service and adventure trip to the Boundary Waters through Wilderness Canoe Base: June 17-24. Limited spots available!

Vacation Bible School: July 25-29

Camp Wapo: elementary, middle, and high school students: July 31-August 5

CLC Family Camp: August 11-14 at Father Hennepin State Park



Questions? Talk to Pastor Hannah.

LIFE NIGHT SPRING SCHEDULE

Wapo Youth

Where fun & faith collide for 4th-6th grades



Activities Include:

- Swimming
- Arts & Crafts
- Disc Golf
- Ga Ga
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Slip n Slide
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Basketball
- Carpet ball
- Paddle Boarding
- Air Square
- Ratatattat
- Noodle Hockey
- Mighty Mighty Scoop
- Noodle Challenge
- Servant Fair
- Ice Cream Social
- Capture the Flag
- Beach Bash
- Treats at the Canteen
- Masterpiece Skit Night
- Thursday Banquet



Church Information
 Wapo Youth Dates: July 31-August 5
 Church Contact: Pastor Hannah

Key Dates
 January 15th, 2016 - Congregational Priority Registration Opens
 March 15th, 2016 - Congregational Priority Registration Ends
 March 15th, 2016 - Registrations open on first come, first served basis

About the Week

Register Online at campwapo.org

Your camper's experience starts on Sunday afternoon and concludes on Friday with a closing worship for campers and parents. Youth will be assigned to a cabin with a buddy and other kids their age. Each week we welcome over 300 Wapo Youth campers to camp. Each day include morning chapel, Bible studies, cabin activities, free time, field game and a campfire worship.

Situated on a 22 acre peninsula between Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake near Amery, WI is Camp Wapo. For over 60 years Camp Wapo has provided a place for youth and young adults to be challenged and inspired to grow in their relationship with God.

We invite you to join in the excitement at Camp Wapo. A Place of Grace. A place where faith and fun collide. A place for YOU!



Each month for Life Night, we focus on one specific topic or Bible story, and we also work to serve our community through a specific activity. In April, we will serve others by collecting food for the food shelf. Why do we do so much with the food shelf? Well, because we believe that God calls us to care for all people, especially the poor. We also believe that it is a travesty that some people go to bed hungry at night. We also believe that a bunch of people working together in small ways can make a huge impact on the lives of others. So, please, be generous when the youth of CLC come knocking on your door this month, and say Thank You to a child who is learning to live out his or her faith.

March 30th—Baskets of Promise assembly @ 6:30

April—Normal Life Night on April 6, 13, 20, 27

Service Project - Food Shelf collection

May—Normal Life Night on May 4 & 11

Service Project - Community Garden

Save the date!

Life Night Carnival
 May 18th

Coming July 25-29!
CAVE QUEST VBS!

Registration opens on
Easter Sunday!

Can you volunteer?
 Talk to Laura Langreck or
 Pastor Hannah today!





Part of the Adventurers group, out for lunch last month following the Westminster Town Forum.



Nourished by Community

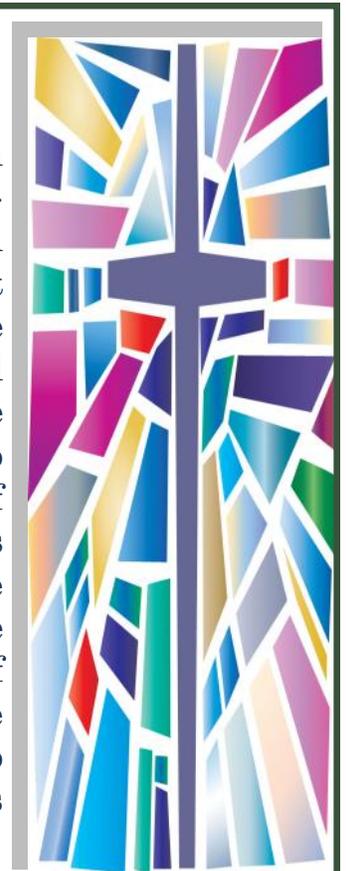
On Tuesday, March 8th we will be going to see the movie 'Risen' at the Marcus cinema. Risen is a movie about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ from a non-believers perspective. It has gotten wonderful reviews! After the movie, we will go to an early dinner and have some time for fellowship and discussion. Times will be announced closer to the date, as the theater has not posted these yet. Cost will be \$7.00 for ticket and transportation and free popcorn! Meal is extra. Please sign up by March 6th.

On Thursday, April 14th we will be going to the Westminster town hall forum to hear Jacob Hacker. He is a professor of political science at Yale University and Director of the Institution for Social and Policy Studies. After the forum, we will venture out for lunch. Cost is \$5.00 to cover gas expenses. Meal is extra.

In April, we will also be going to Minneapolis to see "The Marvelous Wonderettes". This is a musical comedy filled with some of your favorite songs of the 50's and 60's! Date and cost will be announced soon!

Nourished by Blessing

While we firmly believe we are the church more outside our walls than inside, the building, property and sanctuary at Christ Lutheran continue to be an important part of who we are and how we reach out and share the love of God to our neighbors and community. Over the past few years money from the Memorial Fund has allowed us to replace the carpeting in the Nyman Center and in Torgeson Hall. Memorial money was used to help improve the audio and video capabilities in the sanctuary. This summer Memorial Funds will hopefully be used to make some much needed repairs to the stained glass windows. Each of these projects would not have been possible without money received as gifts in memory of loved ones, friends and cherished members of the church and community. These gifts are a blessing to the ministry we share at Christ Lutheran and they are a way in which the memory of these people continue to bless us as a church and community. While we try to send out a thank you to those who give memorials, we also want to share the ways these memorials are used to sustain and bless the mission and ministry of CLC.



Nourished by Service

It rained almost every day of Mission Jamaica. This is not a complaint. In Minnesota it has been in the single digits with nuisance snow during the same time period. And having to choose between 80 degrees and rain and 6 degrees and snow – I choose the rain. Despite the rain, some of us made a point of going into the ocean every day, if for no other reason than because it was there. There is something nourishing about floating, swimming, wading in the oceanic waters and looking out into the distance and seeing nothing but water. For a week the rain also put a damper on what was a drought of sorts in Jamaica. Up until this week it had been a dry year. In a county that is surrounded by water it is hard to imagine a drought. Garland Hall, the children's home where we spend the week is about a 40 minute drive out of Montego Bay. It is in the hills. And the farther you drive from Montego Bay the more you realize how much of Jamaica is poor. The farther you drive you notice the road conditions worsen. You notice the walled in estates quickly turn to shacks along the side of the road made out of cinder block, scrap metal and even broken off pieces of plastic. You notice the smells. You notice the people. If you are at all paying attention, you notice.

When we arrived at the children's home this year we were told they had no water. Because of the drought the water which normally goes up the mountain was being rationed. They only had water on Wednesdays. On Wednesdays they would try to fill their cisterns, tubs and buckets and then try to make the water last. Mind you there are 26 kids (ages 6-18) and 6 staff who live there. It was Sunday when we first made it up to Garland Hall and they had no water. It would be three days until the water would be turned back on. Later that day we returned back to Montego Bay to our hotel on the ocean where the toilets flushed, where we could leave the water running as we brushed out teeth, where we could shower as often as we desired and leave as many half drunken water glasses on the table as we got up from dinner. It was a jarringly incongruent start to our week in Jamaica.

With the early start of Lent, this year Mission Jamaica trip fell during Ash Wednesday, which in Jamaica is a national holiday. Stores were closed and there was no school. So the children would be around. It meant we wouldn't get as much work done on repairing the building. But it meant we would have more time with the children as we would attempt to repair each other's lives. In the morning we gathered with the children and staff for a short Ash Wednesday service. We talked about making mistakes, about saying and doing things we wished we wouldn't have said or done. We talked about getting hurt by others. We talked about God's love, God's forgiveness. How today is a gift and tomorrow is a hope. About how tomorrow is not promised to any of us. We read Psalm 51, a common psalm for Ash Wednesday. It talks about forgiveness, repentance. It begins with these words,

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”

The psalm continues but even as I was reading I couldn't get past that last line. ***“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*** How could you read those words without thinking about water? Here we were crowded together at Garland Hall; children hoping today the water would be turned on so they could be washed and the mission group some of whom were still wet from time in the ocean, who were able to be cleansed that very morning without worry by a hot shower. Soon the children lined up to receive ashes on their forehead and to hear the words, ***“Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”*** But as each child came forward I could not get the words of the psalmist out of my mind. As



each one came forward it was hard not to ask each child for forgiveness for allowing them to grow up in a world with such a disparity of resources. A world in which they continue to live day by day knowing even the simplest of needs, like water, is a gift. And water tomorrow is still a hope. May God forgive our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

This year our Mission Jamaica week is made up of people from Christ Lutheran in Marine, Our Savior's in Stillwater, Farmington Lutheran, and Hope Lutheran in South Minneapolis. Thank you to everyone who provided support and prayers. Thank you for allowing us to be nourished by these young lives as together we serve in God's world with love.

Watch for information in the coming months about being a part of Mission Jamaica in 2017.



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



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*Help us adorn our
worship space on
Easter Sunday,
March 27th, with the
beauty and scent of
fresh flowers. See the
display in the Nyman
Center for order
forms. Please place
orders by March 13th.*

**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 ver-
sion of the Steeple to People News-
letter 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.
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