

Monthly Newsletter

Christ Lutheran Church -Yakima, WA

February 2021

A Message From Pastor Schraan

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” With these words, we trace the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ash on Ash Wednesday to remember our mortality and turn us again toward God’s promises given in Holy Baptism. Indeed, the whole season can be a return to baptism. The season of Lent returns us to the basics of our faith practices; prayer, fasting, and giving alms to help the poor.



Here’s a concise definition of Lent from the [*Pocket Dictionary of Church History: Over 300 Terms Clearly and Concisely Defined.*](#)

Lent. Traditionally a fast in anticipation of Easter, the practice of keeping Lent began in the second century, although then it lasted for just three days. By the time of the [**Council of Nicaea*](#) in 325, it was determined to be a forty-day fast in honor of Christ’s forty days in the wilderness. During this six-week period, just one simple meal was eaten, although the fast was broken on Sundays. From the ninth century on, especially in the Roman Catholic Church, Lent has become progressively more relaxed. As well as a time of fasting, Lent is a time of increased spiritual exercises and attention to the needs of the poor.

This year, I am excited to use some resources from Lutheran World Relief each week called “Sensing Hope”. Each week will include a conversation starter. I encourage you to use this resource to reach out to 1-2 different households per week to foster a connection among us.

In Christ,

Pastor John

MISSION STATEMENT

Called by God
to Worship,
Learn and
Nurture; Sent
to Serve and
Tell

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Jesus is Lord
and Savior.

We are called to
learn and share
the Good News.

Welcome and
serve all people.

We are servants
of God to others.

Holy Spirit,
mighty in prayer
leads us to
answer God’s
call.

Fellowship
sustains each
other.

Learning and Fellowship - Physical Distancing Edition

Spiritual Growth:

Check out the news section of our website for Spiritual Discipline videos from Pastor Schraan. This month we will learning the T.R.I.P method for prayer.

Bible Study:

Join us Mondays at 7pm on zoom for Bible Study. The *Road to Coronation* follows Jesus' journey to the cross through all four Gospels. Contact Pastor for a book.

- Feb 15: "The Royal Background"
 Feb 22: "Royal Beginnings"
 March 1: "Royalty in Action"
 March 8: "Royalty in the Holy City"
 March 15: "The Royal Coronation in Matthew, Mark, and Luke"
 March 22: "The Royal Coronation in John"

Let's Celebrate!

Happy Birthday to...

1st Trent Fisher
 3rd Jay and Katie Carroll
 10th Elisabeth Dunbar
 14th Ilene Bushnell
 22nd Jim Sebree
 24th Crystal Sebree
 26th Whitney Murphy



Happy Anniversary to...

4th Joan and Mel Jangard



Suzanne Brown will be creating the March Newsletter. Email submissions to her at Suzanne.brown2@comcast.net
 Thank you Suzanne!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Hunger Facts:

- One million Washington residents visited a food bank in the past year.
- 1 in 10 Washingtonians consistently struggle with hunger.
- 1 in 8 Washingtonians live below the poverty line.
- 1 in 8 Washingtonians relies on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to purchase food. Half of all people on SNAP are kids.
- The majority of working-age Washingtonians living poverty are working or actively looking for work. Many work more than one job.
- Washington State ranks 10th in the country in overall wealth – and ranks **34th in food insecurity.**



Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired movement that has worked across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. This movement has created over \$160 million worth of support that stays completely local. Christ Lutheran has been a part of this movement for many years and will participate again. Our donations stay local and will be going to Northwest Hunger to aid them in filling their warehouse to bring food to those in need. Since we are not gathering together for worship, please either mail a check ear marked for Souper Bowl Sunday or donate online. Visit <https://christlutheranyakima.org/give>, click on the Give Online Now, and select Souper Bowl of Caring from the drop down menu. Thank you for your generosity.

Next Step Housing Salutes CLC

Christ Lutheran recently received a card from the regional management at Next Step Housing in Oakland, Calif. They thanked Christ Lutheran for its involvement with the Vets at Pear Tree Place all these years and, as Pr. Rigo said, keeping them "so close to your hearts ... we are forever grateful." The acknowledgement came with a \$500 VISA gift card, and we will return that money to the "Thanksgiving Boxes" fund for the next event.

Thank you for your selfless work! Our efforts are appreciated even beyond the valley, even though WE know our congregation would support the Vets anyway in whatever way we could. Thanks to the Social Ministry Committee as a whole, and especially Kathy, for her leadership in this ongoing ministry.

CLC again sends 'Hope for the Holidays'

This year, Christ Lutheran congregants sent greetings and messages of hope to 134 families as part of "Hope for the Holidays," a national program sponsored by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). The cards were written in both English and Spanish and were sent to more than 100 families who have been split up or remain detained together indefinitely, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, while their cases are decided by the government.

Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee, this is CLC's second year participating in "Hope for the Holidays." The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has been part of our national church since 1939.

Blood Drive

Christ Lutheran Church and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive. Please join our lifesaving mission! There is no better way to show your love for your neighbor than to donate blood. Please sign up today to donate on February 24th at Christ Lutheran Church 5606 W Lincoln Ave. Thank you

Drive Details:

Site: Christ Lutheran Church

Address: 5606 W Lincoln Avenue, Yakima, WA, 98901

Room Name: Fellowship Hall

Date: Wed Feb 24, 2021

Time: 12:30 PM - 5:30: PM

Blood Program Leader Name: Kathy Sebree

[Click here to make an appointment](#)



The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or text BLOODAPP to 90999. Schedule appointments, view your blood type and results of your mini-physical, and track your donations.

A Letter From Our Bishop— February 2020

We are in the process of preparing for our first digital synod assembly. While we are heartened by the realities of vaccines against COVID, we also acknowledge that the thought of gathering people from four different states together in one, windowless room, crowded together at tables for hours at a time doesn't bear thinking about in regards to safety—so we continue to exercise an abundance of caution in order to keep the people of the Northwest Intermountain Synod healthy.



Our theme verse for the Assembly will be Isaiah 43:19, “**Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can't you see it?**” When the pandemic arrived at the shores of our country just over a year ago now, we had no idea the impacts it would have on our day to day lives, our communities, and indeed: our nation. We balance people speaking the fear that people will get out of the habit of attending church, if church isn't a place one **goes** to with people who recognize with awe that the average weekly worship attendance for their congregations has been **higher** in 2020 than it has for several years—in some cases: decades. For a long time, the Church has comforted herself with the notion that the reason the numbers of folk participating in worship was declining was because of some deficit in our culture—we had to get God back in places—schools, workplaces, etc. (*As if anyone in the history of time has ever been able to remove God from anyplace God intended to be.*)

What the numbers we're seeing in response to digital worship offerings tells me is that the hunger for God, the need of God, the love of the liturgy of the worship of God hasn't gone anywhere. People aren't avoiding God. But something about the way **we've** presented God, something about the way we've **represented** God, has kept them away. What the numbers we're seeing in response to digital worship offerings tells me is that maybe, just maybe, the problem of declining numbers of people in worship has nothing to do with them, or the style of worship, or God, but us.

Ouch.

Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can't you see it?

These words of God to the prophet Isaiah have echoed in my heart for nearly a year now, as braced for the fall of Christianity as we know it, instead I witnessed the incredible ways that congregations have shifted, pivoted, & found their voice in this strange new world. Our ways of doing things have been shaken to their very foundations—and if that foundation was not God in Christ Jesus, that foundation has been found to be insecure. If that foundation was congregational identity or love building or love of worship style—we are indeed left floundering. But if that foundation was mission—and if that mission was to reach people outside the four walls of the congregation with the love of God in Christ Jesus: those are the congregations who are seeing new things happening. New life. New hope. New joys.

Does it look like it did on February 1, 2020? Not for those who will navigate this successfully. Already congregational leadership knows that we will never “go back” to what was. We are firmly in the territory of *Something New*. For those of us who grew up falling

A Letter From Our Bishop— cont.

in love with the way sound behaves in a sanctuary, or the smell of hymnals, or the way candlelight glowed on the old wood altarpiece, or the way friends always sit in the same place: *Something New* can be frightening. Like the ancient Israelites, following Moses out of slavery into freedom we may yearn for what we once knew—even though we know it wasn't working! We prefer the dysfunctional known to any form of the unknown.

Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can't you see it?

The thing we forget about the *Something New* is the One who is overseeing it. If we believe in the promises God has given us, we have nothing to fear about *Something New*. If we believe in the promises God has given us, we should have been looking for *Something New* far more actively than we have. If we believe in the promises God has given us, if we believe that the People of God as a whole are more important than any single Person of God's preference: we should have been expecting this. God promises to never leave us or forsake us. God admonishes us to "Fear not!" because "perfect love casts out fear!" God gathers us like chicks sheltering under a hen's wing. God commands angels to surround us for our protection. God has placed God's own name upon us, for we are the apple of God's eye.

Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can't you see it?

Can you see the new thing God is up to? Can you look past your fear and uncertainty to see Jesus rolling up his sleeves to guide his people into this new green pasture? This pasture where all things we've trusted in have been utterly up-ended, dumping us, finally, into the arms of a man who has been pierced for our sake? One who gathers us in & calls us his siblings?

Beloved ones: it is there! It is there! It is springing forth, full of God's goodness & love for God's creation! Can't you see it?

Alleluia!

+Bishop Kristen Kuempel

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Important Announcement! Christ Lutheran Semi Annual Meeting

Our Semi Annual Congregational Meeting was rescheduled to February 28th after service. A limited number can participate in the Sanctuary to view the zoom meeting on the big TV. If you have access to a computer at home, you might find it easier to hear and ask questions in the zoom format. We will be voting on our 2021 Budget at this meeting. We are excited to see your faces online or in person as we plan for another great year at Christ Lutheran Church. If you need to attend in person, please RSVP to the church so we know how many to expect.

We will have a practice zoom on February 21st at 10:30, right after Drive in Communion. We strongly encourage everyone to attend, so we can quickly practice asking questions and voting. We will continue right into the practice and Semi-Annual meeting after worship, so the recordings will be posted a little later than usual these two weeks. Thank you!

Christ Lutheran Lenten Journey

Shrove Tuesday:

Some celebrate with pancakes and coffee and others with beignets and King Cake. No matter what you choose to indulge on before Lent, let's plan to gather for a zoom dinner as a congregation at 6 pm on February 16th. Make your favorite food, bring your devices to the table, and raise a glass with your church friends. We'd love to hear what favorite foods you are enjoying and if you practice a Lenten discipline, what you plan to give up or take on.

Ash Wednesday:

February 17 at Noon in the Sanctuary or live on zoom. Recordings will be posted by late afternoon. Because the imposition of ashes is going to look very different this year, we will hand out stickers in place of ashes to allow our congregants to still take part in the imposition of ashes (in a new way)! If you are not participating in in-person worship, please call the church to arrange to pick up your sticker or have it mailed to you.



Ash Wednesday
Sticker

Wednesdays in Lent:

Following Ash Wednesday, every Wednesdays through March 24th we will be gathering in the Sanctuary and on zoom for a short Lent Worship Service. Recordings will be posted by late afternoon and emailed along with the Lutheran World Relief handout "Sensing Hope."

Lenten Offerings:

Lenten Offerings will benefit Lutheran World Relief. Use a designated offering envelope or give online and select the "Advent/Lent" tab at www.christlutheranyakima.org/give

Mission Spotlight: Lutheran Services in America



Lutheran
Services
in America

Each month we take a closer look at the ministries we support through our benevolence to the ELCA. This month we are highlighting Lutheran Services in America. The following was originally published on the ELCA website under Social Ministry Organizations. To learn more or utilize Lutheran Services, follow the links below or visit <https://www.lutheranservices.org>

When people are facing a crisis in life, a personal or family need or are at their most vulnerable, we respond with care and compassion, ready to serve and love our neighbor. We believe Christ has freed us to embrace and care for people of all ages in any situation or context.

As members of the ELCA, we can only do this work and offer ourselves in service because we are joined with a large network of partners, organizations and denominations who have a common vision of caring for people in need wherever they are – Lutheran Services in America.

The ELCA and 300 health and human service organizations participate in an alliance known as [Lutheran Services in America](#), which serves more than 6 million people each year in the United States and the Caribbean. That's one in 50 Americans every year. As part of this alliance and mission, we support more than 285 social ministry organizations affiliated with the ELCA.

We are called to do God's work in a complex world. The services and organizations available are as diverse as the needs of the people and communities they serve: health and human care, alcohol and drug treatment, disaster response, counseling, employment assistance, housing for those who are homeless, adoption and foster care, developmental disability services, pregnancy counseling, senior adult care, child abuse prevention and others.

To learn more about social ministry organizations the ELCA works with and the communities they serve, visit [Lutheran Services in America](#).

You can find Lutheran Social Services and other social ministry organizations in your area by going to the [Lutheran Services in America member directory](#) or by searching for [specific services or locations](#).

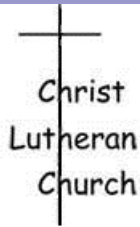
**LSA + 300 members =
Care for 6 million Americans**



150k
Volunteers
engaged
every year

Employees in Lutheran Services
in America member organizations

250,000



**Called by God to
Worship, Learn,
and Nurture:
Sent to Serve
and Tell**

Contact Us

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Visit Our Website
www.christlutheranyakima.org

Visit Our YouTube Page
[Christ Lutheran Church Yakima](#)

Worship Times
Sundays on Zoom and in the
Parking Lot at 9:30am
Recordings Posted to
YouTube
Facebook
Your Inbox

Give Online
Download the Give Plus + App



**Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America**

Christ Lutheran Prayers

Prayers for Our Ministry Partners:

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, ELCA World Hunger, Northwest Inter-mountain Synod, YWCA, and Northwest Harvest.

Prayers of Comfort and Healing:

Be with Dave and Cindy, Talbert, Kristen, Margaret, Penny, Kate, Linda, Sarah, Dean, and Earl. Sustain healthcare providers; and tend to all who feel hopeless or despondent.

Additional Prayers:

Foodbanks, government officials, first responders, the homeless.

Please send any additional prayer requests to Pastor John via email christlutheranyakima@gmail.com with "Prayer Request" in the subject line no later than Thursday at 4pm to be included in the written Sunday prayers. If you do not have e-mail, please call the church and be sure to include the correct spelling in your message. If you attend in person worship and offer a

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Worship In person, live on Zoom, and in the Parking Lot at 9:30 (zoom fellowship and Parking Lot Communion Liturgy immediately following service) or watch the recording (posted and e-mailed by Noon)
Every 3rd Sunday - Communion Liturgy will be postponed to 10:15 am to allow those worshipping from home time to arrive for communion.

Monday

Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm

Wednesdays

Lenten Worship (starting the 17th) In person or on zoom at Noon

Scriptures

February 7

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#) *The creator of all cares for the powerless*
[Psalms 147:1-11, 20c](#) *The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*
[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#) *A servant for the sake of the gospel*
[Mark 1:29-39](#) *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

February 14

[2 Kings 2:1-12](#) *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*
[Psalm 50:1-6](#) *Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)*
[2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#) *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*
[Mark 9:2-9](#) *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

February 21

[Genesis 9:8-17](#) *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*
[Psalms 25:1-10](#) *Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*
[1 Peter 3:18-22](#) *Saved through water*
[Mark 1:9-15](#) *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

February 28

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#) *God blesses Abraham and Sarah*
[Psalms 22:23-31](#) *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*
[Romans 4:13-25](#) *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*
[Mark 8:31-38](#) *The passion prediction*