



LENT 2020

"Were You There..." is the theme of the Wednesdays in Lent this year. Lent begins on February 26, with Ash Wednesday. A soup & salad/sandwich dinner will be offered beginning at 6pm with worship to follow at 7pm. Worship will again be the Evening Prayer (Vespers) liturgy.

This year, the following groups will be organizing the weekly meals:
Feb 26– Ash Wednesday – Cheryl's Dinner Group
March 4– Governance Board
March 11– Finance Team and Service Network
March 18– Elsie's Circle
March 25– Worship and Music Network
April 1– Book Club

The Lenten Calendar with all the activities during the season will be available mid-February.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

This past fall, Christ Lutheran Church, along with St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal

Church participated in Choral Evensong. Choral Evensong is a service of Lessons and Anthems, which takes place in the late afternoon as the sun begins to set and we await the start of a new week. This service was a huge success – with incredible work so many lay leaders of our church!

Throughout the Advent Season, the Music Ministry of CLC offered several events. Our Advent Meditations and Music series and Lessons and Carols service were well received by those who attended. I was so thrilled that the Music Ministry of CLC was able to make all of these offerings happen while featuring our very own music groups within the church. I could not be more pleased by the hard work that the choirs of CLC put in to make these a time of reflection and spiritual uplifting for those who attended. Next year, we will feature many musicians from the Indianapolis community and beyond.

As we approach the Easter season, there will be many more opportunities to experience the hard work that all of our Christ Lutheran Church choirs and musicians put in week after week – including full brass and timpani on Easter

Morning. It is sure to be an exciting time filled with reflective and uplifting music, all offered as our gift to God through our ministry at Christ Lutheran!

SERVICE NETWORK

On 10/6/19, 153 hats and scarves were blessed by Pr. Wes. They were delivered to Wheeler Mission on Nov 1. The 'In the Loop' ministry consists of over 20 members and friends of CLC and meets monthly for fellowship and fiber-arts.



Delivering Giving Tree items to LCFS

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

57

Pumpkin Pies

You donated ingredients for the High School Youth to make the pies and donate them to the Caring Center.

**14
units**

Blood Drive

That's 40 lives saved!

**90+
items**

Giving Tree

34 toys, 12 hats/gloves, 7 small appliances, 378 diapers/560 wipes, 17 gift cards, & 20 rolls of wrapping paper for the LCFS Christmas Store.



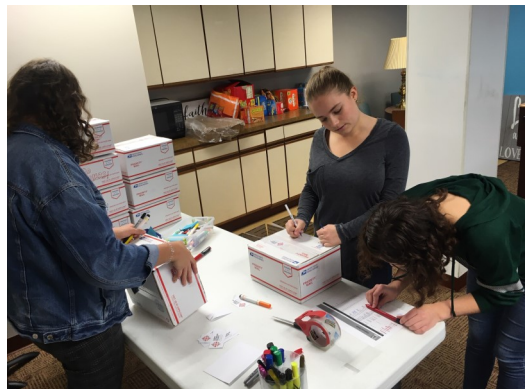
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

The high school youth spent a fun day of fellowship and service on November 24th. We took over the kitchen in an organized production of pumpkin pie baking. The youth created 57 (plus one for quality control testing!) pies and boxed them to share with our Boone County neighbors who receive their Thanksgiving meal from *The Caring Center*. (The youth found the pie boxes to be a fun addition to our project--no pies were harmed in the making of that tower!)



In addition to the pies, the youth assembled 16 "Feast for Finals" care packages for our college youth. With the generous donations from the congregation, the youth sent Christ's love through USPS to encourage our college students as they prepared for finals.

A special thank you to Ray, Yvonne and Sidney, our adult helpers!



FELLOWSHIP



The Princess Tea at Serenity, on Nov 9, 2019 was attended by 15 people including 6 princesses and two MOPS moms.

Karen, the owner, gave us a history of the house and we were served a lovely tea with chicken salad, cucumber sandwiches and petite desserts and cookies as well as hot tea. The young girls were given a fairy cookie and told a cute story. Everyone enjoyed the experience and fellowship.



OUTREACH

Some of our church members and preschool families went Christmas caroling at Zionsville Meadows on Friday, December 6! Some of the residents even joined us as we caroled up and down the hallways. It was so nice to be able to take time out of our busy schedules and to spread some holiday cheer to all of the residents.

FAITH FORMATION

This past December, Christ Lutheran Church once again hosted Breakfast with Saint Nick and offered a laid back and educational atmosphere for people of all ages. Tom Conrad (I mean, Saint Nick) regaled the children and their parents about the legend of Saint Nick, while others engaged in crafts, mingled with friends, and ate a wonderful assortment of food. This year the people of Christ Lutheran served 25 families of which 11 were first timers - for a total of 96 people! A special thank you to Amy Niehaus for organizing the morning, and so too, a deep and heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave of their time to make this event a success. Can't wait to see you all next year!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February

February 23 Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast

February 26 Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

April

April 11 Easter Egg Hunt

April 12 Easter Sunday

While walking our dog, Karley, early one December morning, the sun just rising in the east, I heard a strange chirping, chortling, nearly barking sound echoing in the space between our house and our neighbors'. I left the security of the sidewalk to peer through the dusky dawn light in hope of catching a glimpse of what odd animal might be there. My heart rate rose as I shuffled closer.

Nothing. I saw nothing. Yet the volume of the sound grew, and the strange cacklecall surrounded me. I pulled poor Karley closer, fearful, I must admit, that something lurked and threatened, heard but not seen, in the shadows.

Slowly backing my way to the sidewalk, I realized that the sound was not a single voice, but many, and it came not from the earth, but the sky. I looked up and there they were, filling the sky, hundreds of them, huge as pterodactyls, a cacophony of croaking, chortling, chiding as they took turns at various places in their ever reforming and elongated "V". The sight and sound of them was overwhelming. My heart pounded again, now in wonder, as I stood still, staring starward and listening with much more than my ears.

And then, a minute or two later, they were gone. All sound went with them as the last in line faded into the southern sky. Karley and I were alone again, standing together in stunned silence, wrapped in the crisp December cold, inhaling wonder, exhaling awe.

Back in the house (and grateful for Google), I found the sound I had heard and discovered that I had been witness to the migration of Sandhill Cranes. Their calls can be heard more than two miles away. Sandhill cranes, not pterodactyls after all, but no less a wonder to hear and behold.

Two poems came to my mind as I read about these cranes and listened to recordings of their calls: one from an ancient Christian mystic quoted in an Advent devotional that my wife Janet and I were reading, the other from a longtime favorite Lutheran pastor/theologian/poet. Each in their own way, these poems resound with the call of the cranes and point a way forward for me from that December morning into the new year rising. Perhaps they will also be helpful guides for you, as you step out into breaking dawn to walk through the gift of a new year, looking and listening for the promised and surprising presence of God.

Every single creature is full of God
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spend enough time with
the tiniest creature, even a caterpillar,
I would never have to prepare a sermon.
So full of God is every creature.
—Meister Eckhart

Can it be that grace takes us by surprise
in the midst of the ordinary and the repeated?
Why shouldn't this be so,
because grace is from outside us,
not within?
It is God's interruption,
his wonderful invitation.

Grace is God at his unpredictable best.
No vision of Christ duplicates another,
for love defies the stereotype.
To believe is to live in perpetual surprise
and expectation.
—Gerhard Frost



Bishop Bill Gafkjen

From the Preschool

We had a wonderful first semester of school!

We continue to have weekly chapel lessons with Pastor Wes, Kathryn, Kim Kelly, and Sarah Zell, and we are participating in monthly service projects. During the months of October and November we collected food for The Caring Center and during the month of December we went Christmas caroling at Zionsville Meadows.

Other events thus far include: dance with Catherine Casciani, yoga with Lara Blastick, a visit from the Zionsville Fire Department, Jackson Pollock-inspired art (check out the collaborative canvas and pictures in the hallway outside of the preschool office), Pre-K field trips to the IRT, fall festivals, Halloween parades, vision screenings (a free service provided by The Lions Club), Donuts with Grown Ups celebrations, and Christmas celebrations and programs (check out the video of some of our preschool children retelling The Christmas Story on our church and preschool Facebook pages).

Additionally, our staff members have participated in many professional development opportunities already this school year, including training on: Reggio-inspired environments and Conscious Discipline.



As we look ahead, we are looking forward to a number of upcoming events, including: Music Week, dental education, taking valentines to Hoosier Village, having another visit from Julie Myers from The Zionsville Library, Dr. Seuss Week, and our spring luaus!

CHURCH OFFICE

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-12pm

Laura Hartman, Office Administrator

- Worship Bulletin, supply ordering, church calendar, church correspondence and records

Julia Goldberg, Communications Administrator

- Bulletin insert (announcements), Weekly eNews, website & Facebook page administration, advertising, finance (checks, vouchers, Simply Giving, payroll, etc)

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