



### ***First of the Month @ CLC***

September 1, 2022

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Although fall hasn't really happened yet (we officially have 21 more days of summer), fall activities are in full swing at your church.

ChristKids Preschool CLIPArts, Sunday school, and Deeper have begun. In the next two weeks confirmation classes will start. But along with this is an exciting slate of classes and studies for adults. Let me review them for you:

- Beginning September 11, I will be offering a Sunday morning Bible study at 10:45am in the Community Connection Center. We will be studying the Gospel of Mark.
- For those whose primary language is Lahu, Pastor Samee leads an on-line Bible study on Sundays at 6:00pm. You can join on Zoom (Meeting Id: 824 9699 8827; Passcode: 193724) even if your Lahu is a bit rusty!
- Every Tuesday Lauren Chambers leads a Bible study called *Bible Meets World* especially geared for those in their 30s and 40s. This study is at 6:00pm and meets at The Pizza Factory (3121 West Noble Avenue).
- On the second Wednesday of the month women of the church are invited to the Mary Martha Circle, meeting at 9:30am in the Community Connection Center.
- On Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm Bernie Roessler leads a study entitled *A Small Group with Big Questions*. This group meets in the Youth House and explores the BIG questions of faith, theology, and ethics.
- On Thursdays at 5:30pm I lead a Zoom Bible study called *Theology on Tap* (Zoom connection is 844 2463 2252). We will be looking at some strange stories from the Old Testament and ask, "What's that doing in the Bible?"
- On the first and third Friday of the month the men meet for a Bible study at 7:00am in the Christian Life Center. Dwight Merkel is the leader, and they have been studying the book of Proverbs. Breakfast is served. The study can also be accessed through Zoom (896 3993 1046).
- On the first and third Fridays of the month there is a Bible study called *Well Women* which is for...well, women. For just the month of September, however, the study will meet instead on September 9<sup>th</sup> and

23<sup>rd</sup>. The study meets at 9:00am, outside, at the home of Jane Dutton. You can contact Jane for more information ([janedutton08@gmail.com](mailto:janedutton08@gmail.com)).

I don't think I ever remember so many studies being offered for our friends and members to join as they grow their faith while they grow their friendships.

Just a heads up: we will be starting another season of small groups in October. The theme for the small groups will follow our worship theme, *The Wisdom of Jesus*. Look for opportunities to sign up to be in a small group. Whether you have enjoyed a group in the past, or are new to CLC small group ministry, we know you will have a great experience in October. Remember our motto of our small group ministry: *We are better together*.

In addition to gathering, reading, and studying, another essential spiritual discipline is prayer. At CLC we are devoting the month of September to *A Call to Prayer*. As we go further into a pastoral search process it is essential that we (the *whole* church) commit to prayer, asking for God's leadership, listening to God's voice, and centering our collective spiritual lives upon how God will walk with us through changes. Those of you who receive our weekly eBlasts will now also receive a daily eBlast with a Bible passage and a prayer. On Sundays the eBlast will take a slight departure and offer a specific practice intended to broaden your prayer experience. Please join your church and make prayer a priority this month.

And speaking more directly to the transition process, our consultants, Jeff Kjellberg and Rick Heltne, spent three and a half days meeting with over 100 members at CLC. They asked lots of questions, took lots of notes, and are excited by the quality of our members. Jeff will be working closely with the Transition Team, and Rick will be working closely with the Call Committee (which will be chosen by the Church Board this month). On Sunday, **October 9**, both Jeff and Rick will be back to share their findings with us from their many interviews. Make plans to attend the special presentation at 11:00am; a light lunch will be served. It would be helpful if you could RSVP to the church office your plans to attend. This presentation is not just for those who were interviewed, but all members and guests of CLC.

On another topic, watch for construction happening soon in the creation of a Welcome Center in the foyer. Prior to COVID, we often had a Welcome Center located outside. This new location will be easier to maintain, offer a plethora of information for guests and members, and be easily accessed; it will be a window located to one's immediate left as they enter the foyer. The downside is that we will lose the Cry Room. After weeks of observing Sunday morning activity, the Cry Room has been virtually unused. Those with antsy kids (and grandkids!) seem to prefer sitting in the foyer where they can watch the service on the monitor. A new Welcome Center, we are convinced, will provide significant opportunities to connect with our first-time visitors.

May the grace of God continue to inspire us to be a church that connects courageously, grows spiritually, serves selflessly, accepts boldly, and gives freely. If the activities of September are any indication, we are well on our way!

Peace,

*Pastor Brian Malison*