



THE
COMMUNITY

Spirit

THE GOOD NEWS OF
CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - COLUMBIA, IL

A background image of a nativity scene set in a desert landscape under a starry night sky. Silhouettes of figures and camels are visible in the foreground, and a building is on the right.

THE *Light* OF THE WORLD

THERE'S NO DENYING—**NO** CHRIST, **NO** CHRISTMAS
INSTEAD FIND THE JOY—**KNOW** CHRIST, **KNOW** CHRISTMAS

SO DON'T MISS WORSHIP..

CHRISTMAS EVE

AT

Christ Community

5:00 p.m. |

Family Christmas Service

A service for families of every shape and size! Come enjoy an abundance of Christmas carol favorites, a special Christmas Eve message for young and old, and of course a candlelight closing. Join us and don't forget to invite friends and family!

11:00 p.m. |

Candlelight & Communion Service

This quiet candlelit option is a great way to finish Christmas Eve with the true heart of the holiday...the Christ of Christmas. Filled with traditional carols, readings, and Holy Communion, this service literally ushers in Christmas Day as we welcome the Christ Child with the dawning of a new day.



Monthly Member SpotLIGHT

Each month a "SpotLIGHT" shines on one member of Christ Community as we continue to learn about the different lights of Christ who make up our community. Enjoy this month's edition.



Member: Deborah L.R. Lawson

Family: Dorothy Reynolds (Deb's mom)

Activities/Hobbies: Brightening people's days whenever they come for a visit; on-line shopping

Member Since: 2009

Favorite Church Ministries: Vacation Bible School, Worship (especially the music), KTC (prayer shawl ministry)

What brought me to Christ Community: When my Episcopal church lost its pastor things changed there dramatically. I visited another church here in Columbia and after three months of no one even saying hello to me I began searching again. I found CCLC through my parents who took a wrong turn off route 3 one day and ended up going up the hill to CCLC. Pastor Bill (our founding pastor) was outside and when they asked for directions he invited them inside and the rest, as they say, is history. I've loved it ever since.

What keeps me here? The people! They are so kind, friendly, nice, pleasant, and inclusive. Not just to me, but anyone I've brought with me as a guest. Plus all the visits from people. Thank you for keeping me included, for remembering me, for stopping by for a visit, for the beautiful prayer shawl from the knitting group, and for all your prayers. They all mean so much!!

Note from the editor: Deb has been mostly confined to her bedroom here in Columbia for almost 8 years due to MS and a variety of other health complications. Yet through all of that, as you can even see from her own words above, she keeps a smile on her face more often than most people and faces life with great joy and great courage. Keep her healing in your prayers.

December Birthdays

2	Marty Hunsucker	15	Eva Spoljaric	23	Zoe Bryant
3	Lauren Gilbert	16	Ella Craig	26	Lori Vogt
	Kara Hunsucker		Glenna Etheridge	29	John Schoentag
6	Stacy Maschhoff	17	Emily Buss	30	Nadia Spoljaric
7	Tara Luhr		Bill Groennert		
14	Ava Rau		Jonah Velnosky		

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!

Come to the Quiet

Step away from the busy-ness of the season and into Advent supper & service nights

Every year at this time, there is a frantic pace we try hard to escape, but can't quite seem to. This year "come to the quiet" each Wednesday in Advent beginning December 4th. Each week we'll prepare for the Christ Child by quieting our lives with a time of worship featuring Holden Evening Prayer and a peaceful setting of candlelight. This time may be just the thing to settle your soul.

Each Advent Wednesday begins with a nice hot meal (no cooking, no cleaning) at 6:15 p.m., the worship service at 7:00 p.m., and you can be on your way by 7:30 p.m. (*Childcare for children up through Kindergarten is available.*) These services are an annual tradition that many look forward to each year...you can, too! Make it part of YOUR holiday tradition this year.

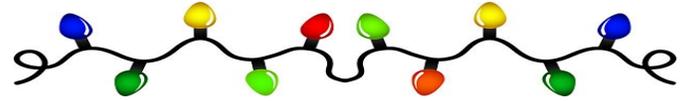
"AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM..."

The Annual Christmas Program



This year's Children's Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 15th during regular worship. Young people 3 years of age and older will work together to share this timeless story with the congregation.

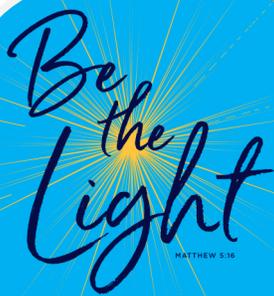
Of course some preparation and rehearsal are necessary to give our best to the Lord! Rehearsals are during Sunday school and part of worship on December 1st & 8th as well as a dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 14th, 9-11 a.m. Please contact [Suzanne Haubein](#) if you have questions.



COLUMBIA CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS

The Light Group, Friday Night Lights, invites one and all to come help represent our church at the annual Columbia Christmas Light Parade down Main Street on Saturday, December 7th, kicking off at 5:00 p.m. Meet in City Park at 4:30 p.m. to walk or ride. All are welcome—young & old. Let's make a great showing at this parade and have a whole lot of fun doing it. What a wonderful chance to witness the REAL (and ONLY) reason for Christmas – Jesus, the Light of the World.

More information-contact [Paul Albers](#) 618-281-2758



25 DAYS OF LIGHT

As we prepare for the Light of the World to come on Christmas, we're invited to shine our own light out in the world. Each day find one way to be Christ's light out in the world. Look for daily e-mails with suggestions and a brief devotion. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

JOIN A LIGHT GROUP

These groups aren't for "someone else"; they are for EVERYONE to get connected with others and support each other in being the Light out in the world! Light groups are a great way to get involved in a meaningful way. Join One TODAY!!!

»»» SIGN UP HERE «««

Mission & Outreach at CCLC

Offering the Heart of Christ with our Hands

ADOPT A FAMILY CHRISTMAS MISSION

We have 50 needy individuals of all ages who need our help with some basic needs this holiday season. Choose an ornament from the Christmas Trees on the M & O bulletin boards near the entry of church, as well as an instruction sheet from the stocking on the mantel. The instruction sheet details how to return your donations (December 5th) as well as the many ways your gifts will make a difference.

HELPING...IT'S ALWAYS IN SEASON

During the Christmas season we are almost bombarded with ways to help others who are less fortunate. This "season of giving" is the only time of year many non-profits are not begging for help. Most of us are blessed to be able to share what we have and we do so as much as possible this time of year. But don't let it end with the season. Helping is always in season!

SSALT

Sisters Serving and Learning Together

We are the Women of the ELCA which is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. We support ministries that educate, inspire and mobilize women in the U.S. and around the world.

All Women are invited for a Christmas Gathering, Sunday, Dec 8th at 7 p.m. at the home of Karen Walker, 965 Forest View in Columbia

We will collect a Christmas Thank-offering for our Central/Southern II Synod of WELCA to support this ministry. If you cannot attend and hear God's call to help, please forward your offering to Penny Manager, CCLC Office Manager and Treasurer for WELCA.

**Blessings and Peace
Mike Schmidt, Mission Chair, WELCA**



**5th Annual Christmas Party
Waterloo Country Club
Sunday, December 1st
Immediately following worship
Cost is \$15
Bring a gag gift (Under \$10)**

PLEDGING:

AN ACT OF LOVE...A LEAP OF FAITH

Few things match the joy of giving to others. At Christ Community that giving spirit has always been present in the many households who give of themselves week in and week out to help further God's work in the world. Last month, the people of Christ Community responded again—pledging part of themselves for the year ahead! A pledge is simply a promise, but in the church it's more than that. It's an act of love that arises from your appreciation of God's blessings in your life, and an act of faith in God's ultimate provision. Thank you to all who have stepped out in faith for our church. Together we will be doing great things for God's Kingdom in 2020..and beyond.

FAQ about Pledging at CCLC

Can I still turn in a pledge card? A card can be turned in at any time to the attention of the church bookkeeper or you can pledge electronically right now by clicking [here](#). Pledges are especially helpful in the budgeting process before year end.

Can I change my pledge mid-year? Remember it is a faith-filled estimate of your desire and potential, but economic circumstances can change suddenly both positively and negatively. When you share those changes with us, it helps to navigate the shortfalls and windfalls that happen.

Why can't I just give? Giving in every variety is wonderful. But the reason Christ Community encourages pledging is the beautiful discipline it creates for your own generous living. It commits you to sharing more than your leftovers. Equally important, it's the way you help your church plan its ministry. We shape our ministry on the upfront generosity of member pledges. These pledge commitments help form the budget that allows us to live faithfully and joyously all year long and frees us from turning to repetitive and unwelcome appeals for giving.

2020 Pledging By the Numbers*

43

Total Pledges

3

New Pledges

7

Increased Pledges

1

Decreased Pledges

\$134,410

Total Pledged, 2020

\$260

Avg Monthly Pledge

**-as of printing date*

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Raising Young People to Know God and be Transformed by Christ



Ignite **AMPLIFY**
go deeper. get louder.

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, December 4th

The Rock Christmas Party

4:30-6 p.m.

The evening will include some yummy treats and an interesting look at “The Grinch”

Sunday, December 15th

Christmas Party & Caroling “Christmas Around the World”

Who: Amplify & Ignite Youth

Where: CCLC

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Please Bring...

- * **an appetizer/finger food from another country...have fun & get creative!**
- * **a White Elephant Gift—\$5 Limit**
- * **Appropriate clothing to go Christmas caroling**

QUAKE IN JANUARY

Looking ahead, don't forget about the Quake Youth Gathering in St. Louis, January 17-19, 2020. You won't want to miss it!!



Christmas Kindness December 8th

11:45 a.m.—1:15 p.m.

...right after church!!

Our Christmas Kindness event is open to families of all shapes and sizes. Along with fun, food and fellowship, please bring a donation of gloves or mittens to be given to **Moms on a Mission** for distribution.

Contact [Lynn Pelker](#) by December 4th with a count of attendees so we can be sure to have enough food and supplies.

CHRISTMAS BREAK



All Sunday School classes will be in recess following the Christmas Program on December 15th to give our awesome teachers a well deserved break. Sunday School will resume for the new semester on January 12, 2020. See you then for a New Year of learning in the Lord! Please join in for fellowship still each Sunday at 10 a.m.

LIFE PASSAGES

BAPTISM

*Brought into the Family
of God*

Emmie Marie Sternau
*Daughter of Tim &
Allie Sternau*

November 24, 2019

FINISHING THE YEAR STRONG

AS WE CLOSE OUT 2019, PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGED OR PLANNED GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH. THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON THE GENEROSITY OF ITS MEMBERS. BECAUSE OF YOUR PART IN GIVING TO YOUR CHURCH WE CAN DO AMAZING THINGS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST FOR A HURTING WORLD. HELP US FINISH STRONG AND RESPONSIBLY IN 2019. IF GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH UNEXPECTED RESOURCE THIS YEAR AND YOU CAN DO EVEN MORE, KNOW THAT YOUR GIFT WILL MULTIPLY IN MANY AMAZING WAYS!

If you need additional information about the current status of your giving or pledge, please contact Penny Madlinger, Church Office Manager, at pmadlinger@christclc.org or 281-4646, ext. 109.

It's also not too late to pledge for 2020—Click [HERE](#)

Congregational Offerings

We give thanks to God for all who generously support the mission and ministry of Christ Community. We can't do God's work without your support!

Budgeted Year-to-date Offering Target \$ 165,077

Actual Year-to-date Offerings \$ 155,346

Amounts as of the end of October

Christmas Poinsettias

Help brighten the church this year by donating a Poinsettia plant!

The donation is \$15 per plant and can be given in honor or memory of loved ones or to God's glory in this Christmas. Look for a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Thank you for helping to brighten our Christmas worship!

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Debbie Amato	314.749.4843	debbieamato@hotmail.com
Bob Bauer	618.281.6903	rgbauer1@hotmail.com
Kevin Blechle	618.340.9005	blechlek@gmail.com
Lisa Donovan	618.281.3155	lisadonovan6@gmail.com
Mark Haubein	618.281.3722	mhaubein@vijon.com
Russ Miers	217.553.7060	rmiers62704@hotmail.com
Heather Speckhard	314.680.1602	speck@htc.net
Scott Verseman	618.304.4978	scott.verseman@usdoj.gov

Council members are people just like you, who worship with you each week, love the Lord, and also have families and jobs and lives beyond CCLC. As members of council they are dedicated to giving their all to serve God's mission in this church and represent us all. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns, they would love to hear from you directly and get to know you more. Feel free to reach out to them personally at their monthly "Fireside Chats" after worship on the first Sunday of the month.

Join in on Sunday Morning



Sunday School—9 a.m.
Fellowship—10:00 a.m.
Worship—10:30 a.m.

Get Connected

Worshipping is at the heart of who we are as children of God, but we were also created to be in relationship with one another. At Christ Community those connections are central to who we are. Want to get connected with others? Join a Light Group today! Click [here](#) to join now or talk to [Pastor Jared](#) TODAY!

December @ CCLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 1 9a Adult Ed/Xmas Reh. 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Fireside Chat 11:45a Deck the Halls 12:00p Top of the Hill Gang—Waterloo Country Club	2 7p Boy Scouts	3 7p LED Heads	4 9:15a Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30p The Rock 4:30p Confirmation 6:15p Advent Meal 7p Advent Worship	5 7a-Wake Up Call  10a CCC Worship 6:30p Girl Scouts 7p Property Team	6 7p Friday Night Lights	7 7:30a-Budget Meeting 10a Assembly of Christmas Float 5p-Columbia Christmas Parade
8 9a Adult Ed/Xmas Reh. 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Christmas Kindness 7p SSALT @ Karen Walker's home	9 7a-Wake Up Waterloo 6p Finance Team 7p Boy Scouts	10 7p Council	11 9:15a Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 4p Hilltop Board Mtg 6:15p Advent Meal 7p Advent Worship	12 7a-Wake Up Call 	13 4:30p Hilltop Christmas Program 7p TGIF Light Group @ Blechle's	14 9-11a-Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
15 9a Adult Ed/Xmas Reh. 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Christmas Program 11:45a Christmas Program Reception 6p Amplify/Ignite Christmas	16 7a-Wake Up Waterloo 7p Boy Scouts	17 6:30p Lightworkers Light Group	18 9:15a Hilltop Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30p Confirmation 6:15p Advent Meal 7p Advent Worship	19 7a-Wake Up Call 	20 6:30p Girl Scouts	21
22 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00p Family Service 11:00p Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26	27	28
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Programs & Offices Closed </div>						
29 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	30	31	JAN 1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Programs & Offices Closed </div>	JAN 2	JAN 3	Jan 4

AT CHRIST COMMUNITY WE VALUE...

CHRIST-LIKE INCLUSIVITY

MOVING CLOSER TO CHRIST

A

GENEROUS STEWARDSHIP

EMBRACING WORSHIP

Our Mission



Growing in Faith



Becoming Disciples

Be doers of the word, & not hearers only.

James 1:22

Living the Word

CCLC Staff Directory

Children, Youth, & Family

Lynn Pelker
618-281-4646 ext. 111
lpelker@christclc.org

Office Manager

Penny Madlinger
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pmadlinger@christclc.org

Hilltop Kids Ministries

Daleena Guldner
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Pastor

Rev. Jared M. Parker
618-281-4646 ext. 101
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