THE COMMUNITY Spirit

FEBRUARY 2018

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

I AM

CHANGES WHO I AM

LENTEN JOURNEY 2018

"I Am." These two simple words which God gives himself as a name capture a profound reality about God. He IS, always HAS BEEN, and always WILL BE—God ongoingly IS. Jesus embraces that identity dozens of times when he echoes those same words to his disciples and to us. This Lent we will travel with "I Am", reflect on who "He Is", and discover how that changes "who I am." And because Jesus IS, WE are CHANGED. Join in and strengthen your faith and your walk as a disciple this Lent. Here's how...

–ASH WEDNESDAY...THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Join us for worship on **Ash Wednesday, February 14th, at 7 p.m.,** and begin the journey. Ash Wednesday reminds us that *"we are dust and to dust we shall return"*. It's a stark reminder of our utter need for the very God who made us and knows us so well. *(Childcare provided)*

–FAMILY LENT EVENT...EQUIPPING FAMILIES FOR THE JOURNEY

There is a serious undercurrent to Lent that's powerful, but for children it can be confusing. At Christ Community we try to equip and walk alongside families throughout their journey with their children, and Lent is a great time to do so. **At noon on Sunday, February 11th,** gather for lunch, fellowship, crafts, and some help as a family to understand and get the most out of Lent together. Please look for sign ups at the Welcome Center or electronically soon.

–DAILY DEVOTIONAL...DAILY TIME WITH "I AM"

Everyone is invited to make use of a daily devotional during Lent. This year's devotion, centered around the theme of renewal, is called "Walking in Newness of Life." Pick one up at the Welcome Center or download a free e-copy here.

–SUNDAY MORNINGS... "I AM" SERMON SERIES

"I am the Resurrection and the Life...the Good Shepherd...the Bread of Life...the Light of the World…"

Each Sunday morning in Lent, beginning on February 18, we explore several of the "I Am" statements of Jesus and learn that "I AM changes who I am".

–WEDNESDAY EVENINGS...LEARNING ABOUT THE ENEMIES OF "I AM"

Wednesday evenings in Lent are a valuable tradition as we gather to be fed physically and spiritually. Join in the Lenten Supper & Services beginning on February 21 and continuing until March 21. This year we will be listening in on some unique "correspondence" between two underlings of Satan transcribed in a book by author C.S. Lewis called "The Screwtape Letters". Eavesdropping on this conversation will open our eyes to all the ways the devil tries to keep us away from God and God's Ways. NOTE: While reading the book on your own isn't necessary, feel free to pick up your own copy on Amazon or wherever you shop and read along throughout the 40 days of Lent.

SCHEDULE:

(1) 6:15 p.m.—**Soup Supper.** We're needing individuals to donate pots of soup for each Wednesday. A kitchen coordinator is needed each week, too. Look for sign ups coming soon. Please consider helping.

(2) 7:00 p.m.—**Worship.** We'll gather in the glow of candlelight and a flickering fire (albeit electronic), turn our hearts and minds to God, and worship from our soul. *(Childcare provided)*

Now Hiring

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Director of Worship & Music Ministry

The needs of these positions have never been greater.

What is possibly more important than God's people giving their best in worship and passing along the faith to generation after generation?

We need your help to get the word out. Click either position above for a current copy of those job descriptions or go to our website. Pass that along to anyone you might know who has gifts in either of these two areas! Someone who either has remarkable musical abilities or incredible charisma with children & youth. And BOTH having insatiable love of God's Church and God's people, and strong leadership & organizational abilities. Please have them contact Pastor Jared or simply invite them to submit a resume and cover letter as soon as possible.

Please keep this process in your prayers—pray for the individuals God is leading towards us even now to minister to and with us, and pray that we as a church be ready to receive them and walk with them in mission.

Church Council Leadership—2017

Paul Albers	618.281.2758	masseyman55@yahoo.com	Suzanne Castleman	618.978.9922	suzannecastleman54@gmail.com
Debbie Amato	314.749.4843	debbieamato@hotmail.com	Lisa Donovan	618.281.3155	lisadonovan6@gmail.com
Bob Bauer	618.281.6903	rgbauer1@hotmail.com	Mark Haubein	618.281.3722	mhaubein@vijon.com
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Chris Browne	618.210.2942	cbrowne@kaskaskia.edu			

These are people of the church just like you. People who have families and jobs and lives outside of this place. As members of council they are committed to giving their all to serve God's mission in this church and represent you 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 as you're able. For your convenience two members of council host "Fireside Chats" monthly on the first Sunday of the month immediately following worship to be available to simply listen.

Remember these options to request prayer and pray together as a community!

- **Prayer Box**—look for it at the Welcome Center, fill out the prayer card, and your prayer will be passed along.
- **Electronic Prayers**—Find a link on the weekly church e-newsletter, E-Spirit or click here, fill out the information, and your request will get passed along and most importantly prayed over. Or you can e-mail your prayer request to prayers@christclc.org. Prayer petitions will be listed in the E-Spirit if requested. Look there so you can pray over your fellow brothers & sisters.
- **Prayer Station**—For those wanting prayers face to face, you are invited to come forward during worship at the time of Holy Communion. At that time a lay leader near the baptistery and one near the fireplace area will be there to receive you, listen to your request(s), and pray with you.

Annual Congregational Celebration Meeting

Each year at this time we take an opportunity to celebrate as a congregation all that God has done in our midst in the past year. At the same time, we also look ahead with faith and anticipation to what God has in store for this community in the New Year. It is also an occasion to accomplish any necessary business as God's church. All of this will happen over the course of a few weeks as follows:

February 4th—Annual Report

The annual report will be distributed. This report shares the story of the year past as well as aspirations for the upcoming year through narratives from our staff and ministry teams. The report also shares the basics of our financial health and aspirations for 2018.

February 11th—Q & A with Council

If you have any questions about the report, the proposed budget, the general direction and vision of the church, please join a couple members of council and Pastor Jared for an informal Q & A session following worship.

February 18th—Annual Congregational Meeting

The whole congregation is invited to come together during our normal fellowship time, 10-10:30 a.m., to carry out decisions that keep our church moving forward in 2018! ALL are invited!!

Congregational Offerings

We give thanks to God for all who generously support the mission and ministry of Christ Community. It takes everyone to move God's mission forward.

Budgeted Offering Target	**2017 Year End**	**2016 Year End**
	$ 194,480	$ 172,130
Actual Offerings	**2017 Year End**	**2016 Year End**
	$ 192,119	$ 162,577

Increased Giving from 2016 to 2017 = $ 29,542 or 18%

Praise God for the amazing generous response to God's Mission last year. May 2018 be equally blessed!

Your Giving at Work Last Year

Each week in 2017 the church tithed its offerings and then some, giving 12% of everything YOU give AWAY. As a result, each item below shows the variety of places and people helped by our giving in 2017.

ELCA/Synod/Churchwide	$ 11,245.47
Feed My People	$ 1,799.28
VBS Mission World Hunger	$ 1,200.00
Missionary—Troesters	$ 1,000.00
Disaster Relief Fund	$ 1,574.37
World Hunger	$ 1,349.46
Salvation Army	$ 674.73
Columbia Clergy Assoc.	$ 899.64
Lutheran Social Services of IL	$ 674.73
Lutheran Campus Ministry of STL	$ 562.27
Other Benevolence Giving	$ 2,711.00
TOTAL Benevolence Giving	**$ 23,690.95**

Remember, every dollar you give helps these wonderful causes and so much more!! We do so much more together than we ever could on our own.

May God use us to fill even more needs in 2018!

Faith In Action Night—SUNDAY, February 25th

Want to get involved? This is the perfect place to start. Ministry teams that help put real ministry into action each and every month gather at Faith in Action—mission projects, Bible studies, family events, outreach to those in need and those far from God, educating and providing tools for good Christian stewardship...and more! All are welcome from 6-7 p.m.

Mission & Outreach at CCLC

Offering the Heart of Christ with our Hands

Upcoming Serving Opportunities

February 4th—The Souper Bowl of Caring is happening on Super Bowl Sunday and your help is needed. At this time of year following the holidays, food pantries find themselves low on supplies. Be a part of infusing them with more to help those in need. Bring in some canned soup and other non-perishables for this ingathering of food during worship on the 5th. You can bring them in early as well.

During February—Add some joy to brighten your winter by helping babies in need! Mission and Outreach will be collecting baby items throughout the month of February. On our bulletin board will be a list of suggested items and donations can be placed in the bin under our board. All donations will be dispersed by local charities.

During March—And speaking of babies, watch our board for another Adopt A Chick mission! In honor of Easter, we will collect money to purchase chicks that will be given to third world residents so they have the means to have eggs to sell and food to eat. The collection will happen throughout the month of March.

In February...

We are gathering on Feb. 4th at 12:00 in the Fellowship area for soup, salad, dessert and our usual games. Questions? Ask Jeri Funk.

Looking Ahead...

- ⇒ March 4th—Dreamland Palace
- ⇒ April—no meeting
- ⇒ May 6th– Potluck at the Furkins' home
- ⇒ June 3rd—Potluck in the Park

Watch the announcements for details as the dates draw nearer. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

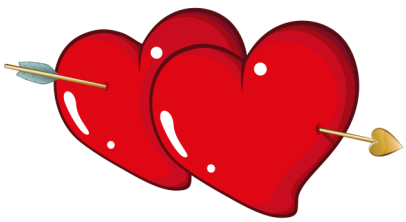
SSALT

Sisters Serving and Learning Together

Women of all ages are invited to gather on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Karen Walker's home for fellowship and encouragement as Sisters in Christ. The next gathering is Feb 11th. We will be putting the final touches on the Father/Daughter Dance we're sponsoring on Saturday, Feb 17th. Please contact Karen Walker for questions and ways to help with this event.

ALSO—See Page 6 for more information about a great Woman's event in March called Fresh Grounded Faith in O'Fallon, IL on March 16 & 17.

Contact Mike Schmidt (618-791-0386) with general questions. Please join us!!



Parent's Night Out

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our youth preparing for their trip to Houston for the ELCA National Gathering...through Flocking, Parent's Day Out, the Annual Silent Auction/Trivia Night, and the many prayers. The youth truly appreciate it!

Their final fundraiser is Parent's Night Out on Saturday, February 10th! Don't forget to take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy a night out and support our youth group at the same time. Make a donation and have a nice Valentine's Day Date with your significant other while your children enjoy a night with the older youth at CCLC and some caring adults! We will make crafts, play games, watch a movie, eat snacks and have a great time!! Check the Welcome Center for a Sign-Up Sheet!!

SAVE THE DATES

VBS 2018

July 29—August 2

2018 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

August 9 & 10

Put it on your calendar NOW
Details to follow SOON

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Raising Young People to Know God and be Transformed by Christ

February 4

Noon—Rocklify

With the Olympics fast approaching, our Rock youth will be competing in their own Olympics—Rocklify Style! Don't miss it! Please send $3 for lunch.

ALSO

Be Like Jesus Lock-in Sign-up Deadline

For all 3rd-8th graders. The event is March 9-10 in O'Fallon, IL. Talk to Pastor for details.

February 10

6 - 10 p.m. Parent's Night Out

This youth fund raiser is a win-win for all. See details on the separate article on page 4. All youth going to Houston are required and all youth are needed. This event builds in money for this summer and beyond for special youth opportunities!

February 11

Noon—Family Lent Event

See details on this Page

February 17

Father Daughter Dance

See details on this Page

February 18

5– 10p—Ignite/Amplify Tubing at Hidden Valley

Cost is $25. Sign Up Deadline is February 11th so we can secure enough drivers. Speaking of drivers...Parents, we need drivers to make this work. Contact Lynn Pelker for more information!

Coming Soon

March TBA—Ignite partnering with First Baptist in Waterloo to host a birthday party for children who otherwise can't have one.

March 9/10—Be Like Jesus at Faith Lutheran in O'Fallon, IL

April 22—Ignite will be serving a meal at the Ronald McDonald House.

May 6—Confirmation Sunday for our 8th Graders

FAMILY LENT EVENT

The season of Lent is a powerful journey for Christians, but it is a challenging one for young people to fully understand. As a church we're committed to helping equip families to live out faith in their homes, and the annual Family Lent Gathering is just such a tool.

As with the Advent Event, we'll be meeting in the afternoon, beginning right at noon with lunch, followed by a special craft to help point us all to Jesus during this season. All families of any shape or size are welcome to attend. Sign up at the Welcome Center or electronically soon. You won't want to miss it!

Questions? Contact Debbie Amato or any other member of the Family Ministry Team

❖ February 17th ❖

Dads line up your date with your "best" gal for Feb 17th. Christ Community, through the leadership of the ladies of SSALT, is hosting its second annual Father Daughter Dance on that Saturday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The evening will feature yummy snacks, music, photo opportunities, and of course a dance floor! Questions? Please contact Karen Walker, or any of the SSALT Ladies.

Look for a sign up at the Welcome Center or electronically soon!!

February Birthdays

2 Layne Albers
Katie Donovan
David Boul
4 David Denny
Ella Buss
Taylor Schoentag
5 Jeri Funk
Lynn Pelker
8 Olivia Eugea
Luke Speckhard
11 Terra Albers
12 Judy Hazen
13 Susan Hendershot
Joyce Tomlinson
14 Nancy Anderson
15 Lauren Weber
16 Mike Amato
Johnny Sternau
18 Craig Eugea
Meghan Renaud
24 Jack Hunsucker
25 Mia McConachie
26 Steve Albert

LIFE PASSAGES

BIRTHS

Glory to God for New Life

Nolan Jack Sternau
Son of Tim & Allie Sternau
January 8, 2018

Charlotte Rose Eugea
Daughter of Craig & Rhonda Eugea
January 17, 2018

Asher David Gilbert
Son of Ryan & Lauren Gilbert
January 27, 2018

FUNERAL

We grieve with hope in Christ

Noah Patrick Hays
Died – January 25, 2018
Service – January 30, 2018

FRESH GROUNDED FAITH

ONE EVENT

FOR EVERY WOMAN

March 16-17

First Baptist Church
O'Fallon, Illinois

This is a special event to build up, encourage, and inspire woman of all ages in their life and faith. Cost is $35 for this two day experience—Friday night and Saturday.

Contact Penny Madlinger for questions, information, and to sign up. Look for the informational poster at church as well.

Grow in God's Word for Your Life Every Week

Dig into God's Word each week

Week of February 4th — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Week of February 11th —Transfiguration of our Lord
2 kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Week of February 18th—First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Week of February 25th —Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Use these scriptures as one way to read God's Word as a regular discipline. Draw close to God's Word and you draw close to God...

Join in on Sunday Morning

9 a.m.—Sunday School

10 a.m.—Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m.—Worship

Dive in Deeper

Join a ministry team or volunteer in a myriad of ways. Make your faith come alive! Fill out a Ministry Opportunity Form located at the Welcome Center or talk to Pastor Jared.

FEBRUARY @ CCLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 28 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Walk Across the Room	Jan 29 7p Boy Scouts	Jan 30 7:45a Prayer Brkfst (Aunt Maggie's)	31 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45 Staff 7p Explore Christ Community	FEB 1 7a Wake up Call 10a CCC Worship	2	3
4 *Souper Bowl* 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Fireside Chat 12p Rocklify 12p Top of the Hill Gang 2p Ignite	5 7p Boy Scouts	6 7:45a Prayer Brkfst (Aunt Maggie's) 7p Worship	7 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45 Staff 4:30p Confirmation	8 7a Wake up Call	9	10 6-10p Parent's Night Out
11 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Annual Report Q&A Noon—Family Advent Event 7:30p SSALT at Karen Walker's home	12 7p Boy Scouts	13 7:45a Prayer Brkfst (Aunt Maggie's) 6p Finance Team 7p Council	14 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45 Staff 7p Ash Wednesday Service	15 7a Wake up Call Newsletter Submission Deadline	16	17 6:30-9p **Father/Daughter Dance**
18 9a Sunday School **10a Annual Meeting** 10:30a Worship 5p Ignite/Amplify Tubing 8p Group 133 at Bully's	19 Hilltop Teacher In-Service Day 7p Boy Scouts	20 7:45a Prayer Brkfst (Aunt Maggie's)	21 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45 Staff 4:30p Confirmation 6:15p Lenten Meal 7p Lenten Service	22 7a Wake up Call	23	24
25 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Faith in Action	26 7p Boy Scouts	27 7:45a Prayer Brkfst (Aunt Maggie's)	28 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45 Staff 6:15p Lenten Meal 7p Lenten Service	March 1 7a Wake up Call 10a-CCC Worship	March 2	March 3

CCLC Staff Directory

Pastor - Jared M. Parker
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