THE COMMUNITY Spirit
THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - COLUMBIA, IL
JANUARY 2018

It's a New Year

START IT OUT WITH SOMETHING NEW!!

-Service Opportunities-

Trivia/Silent Auction

January 13th

This event put on by the Youth has become an annual favorite. Come for an evening of great fun while helping to send our young people to the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. More details inside on Page 3.

Faith in Action

January 17th

This monthly gathering brings together many of our ministry teams active in furthering the mission of the church. These teams always need more hearts, minds, and hands to help in God's mission!

Souper Bowl

Throughout January donations for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring will be received. Look inside at the Mission & Outreach article on page 3 to find out more.

-Bible Study Opportunities-

3 Week Small Group Study

Beginning January 7th is a short and sweet in-home study with a powerful punch entitled "Walk Across the Room". It's not too late to sign up for one of three sites on one of three nights.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

Beginning January 21st, adults are back in action with a study of some heroes of the Bible like Samson and Gideon. These and others like them were the Judges of the Old Testament. We will learn from their successes and mistakes to walk in ways of faith.

Plugged In

Join a growing online community engaged in dialogue over matters of faith. Contribute as much or as little as you want while being fed with the faith and perspective of others...all from the comfort of your own home. E-mail Nathan

-Fellowship Opportunities-

Open Table

January 17th

6-7 p.m.

Join your church family for a monthly meal lovingly prepared by church ministry teams. Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy your church family and grow in your relationships with one another.

Top of the Hill

All men and women "of a certain age" are invited for a gathering on the first Sunday of each month. January's gathering will be at Gallagher's in Waterloo. See inside for more details.

S.S.A.L.T

Ladies are always invited for this monthly gathering on the second Sunday at 7:30 p.m. See page 4 for related article.

Group 133

The men of Christ Community gather each month on the 3rd Sunday at Bully's in Columbia at 8 p.m. January 21st is the next date.

It's a Brand New Year…

…what will you resolve to do in 2018?

…what will you resolve to be about in 2018?

…what will God bring your way in 2018?

…what will YOU bring to God in 2018?

It has been said that *"some 50 year olds have merely lived out one year, 50 different times, instead of really LIVING for 50 years."*

No matter your age, don't let this just be a year to pass the time. Pray about how you can make a true difference in another soul's life.
Don't just warm a seat on Sunday morning.
Pray about how you can be a part of whatever God is going to be up to this year—here at Christ Community and beyond.

Make the ultimate in New Year's Resolutions this year. Resolve to put your faith into action!

Church Council Leadership—2017

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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.

Faith In Action Night—January 17th

Resolving to help others more in the New Year? This is a great place to start!
Help make God's Work happen in the New Year while working alongside your church family.
Faith in Action gathers monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.
There's ALWAYS room for more so, join in starting this month!
Plus: If you have kids, there are activities for them so bring them along.

Mission & Outreach at CCLC

Offering the Heart of Christ with our Hands

Christmas Mission Thank You

Once again, the congregation has shown its generosity during the Christmas season. Thank you for sharing your blessings so that others could have some Christmas joy.

Souper Bowl

Looking ahead, the Souper Bowl is coming soon! Once again, Mission and Outreach is collecting canned goods, especially soups, through Sunday, February 4th. The need for food donations is ongoing as food pantries struggle with growing numbers of those without adequate resources The holiday season, when donations tend to be more plentiful, is in the rear view mirror. Donations can be dropped off at our bulletin board any time leading up to the 4th or on that Sunday as we bless the ingathering of this food for the community. All donations will then be given to local food pantries.

Servants Garden Closes for the Winter

With a final harvest of turnips, the totals are in. The Servants Garden produced and delivered **over 11 tons of** fresh produce to food pantries in 2017! Wow! Praise God and many thanks to the amazing, hard-working volunteers!!!

Trivia & Silent Auction

to support the...

2018 Youth Summer Trip

Join us at Christ Community on Saturday, January 13th, for a lively silent auction, some family-style trivia, and a lot of fun!! Bring your own favorite "trivia food" and enjoy a special Sundae Bar to cap off the evening. CCLC youth will be there serving, entertaining, running the trivia rounds, and available to watch your children in KidZ Landing.

5-6 p.m. - Silent Auction Bidding
6-7:30 p.m. - Trivia
7:30-8 p.m. - Sundae Bar & Auction/Trivia Results

There will be something for everyone at this awesome event! The cost will be $10 per person ($40 max per household/children 5 & under are free) with ALL proceeds going toward the CCLC Youth Summer Mission Trip! Come and have fun with your church family while supporting our awesome Youth!

PLUS...*Don't forget to mark your calendars for* ***Parent's Night Out*** *on February 10th. If you are itching to spend some quality time with your significant other in celebration of Valentine's Day and support our CCLC Youth, we've got you covered. Drop your children off at church with the older youth and enjoy a quiet evening together. Your children will participate in crafts, games, snacks and fun!! Cost: A donation toward our youth summer trips & missions. Thank you for your support!!!*

EXPLORE CHRIST COMMUNITY

New to Christ Community? Want to know more about us, who we are, what we believe, where we're headed? Are you interested in seeing what it means to plant yourself more permanently in this faith community? Then "Explore Christ Community" is for you. "Explore Christ Community" is an event held every few months that walks you through the basics of who we are as a church so you can explore *your* place in it.

The next opportunity will be on Wednesday, January 31st, beginning at 7 p.m. If you would like to attend or just have questions, please contact Pastor Jared at 618.281.4646 x101 or jparker@christclc.org. Whether you're brand new to the church or have been worshipping at Christ Community for some time, come explore with us. Please note: Childcare is available upon request.

Simply giving®

Give to God First in the New Year

Simplify your life and sign up today for "Simply Giving". Under this program your offering is deducted automatically in whatever amount & duration you choose. It's a simple program (hence the name) that helps the church you love and disciplines participants to be first fruits givers. Remember it's because of the generosity of people like you that the ministries at Christ Community continue and flourish!! To enroll, contact Penny Madlinger (281-4646 X109, pmadlinger@christclc.org), or stop in the church office for the "Simply Giving" enrollment form.

SSALT

Sisters Serving and Learning Together

All women are invited to gather each month on the 2nd Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Karen Walker's home for fellowship & encouragement as Sisters in Christ. Our first gathering of 2018 will therefore be on January 14th. Please join us!!

Watch the sign up board for information about Fresh Grounded Faith, a gathering just for women coming to St. Louis in March.

Contact Mike Schmidt (618-791-0386) with any questions.

Thirty members attended the 3rd annual Top of the Hill Gang Christmas party at the Waterloo Country Club. Good food, good people and a spirited gift exchange made the event a big success.

January we are going to Gallagher's for their family style Chicken Dinner. There will be a sign up on the welcome center. You will also find a list of our meetings for the 1st half of 2018.

Questions? Contact Penny Madlinger at pmadlinger@christclc.org or 618.281.4646.

"Faith 5" Family Check-In

Are you a "Faith 5" family? "Faith 5" is a program designed to help busy families open the lines of communication with each other and with God--- all in as little as five minutes a day. It's a basic ritual to help you carve out intentional time each day to talk, read scripture, and pray with your family. Here's how it works:

1) Share: Let all family members share their highs and lows from the day. Take the time to listen to each person as they share.

2) Read: Read a scripture verse from the Bible. Pick randomly, go through a book, or just rotate through a list of favorites—something to get in God's Word together even for a moment.

3) Talk: Talk together about the verse—What does it mean? Why does it matter in our lives? How does it apply to our lives?

4) Pray: After talking to each other, it's time to talk to God. Remember, praying is simply conversation with God. You can't do it wrong! One person can pray, the whole family can say one together (e.g. "Now I lay me…").

5) Bless: Find some simple, special way to share a blessing—through words (God bless you), actions (sign of the cross on the forehead), etc.

Become a "Faith 5" family! Take those 5 minutes a day. Turn off the TV, the cell phone, put down the newspaper, and tune into each other as a family. Take the time to ***share, read, talk, pray,*** and ***bless***. There's nothing like it in the world.

"Group 133"

Men's Spring Retreat

Save the Date—April 27-28

The date for the 2017 Group 133 retreat is set for April 27-28 at Camp Wartburg. Other details to follow. For now, all men of the church, please think and pray seriously about attending this retreat! It's a time to recharge in the outdoors, get filled by good food, good company, and God's amazing presence...please mark your calendars today!

A good introduction to what to expect at the retreat is through Group 133's regular gatherings on the third Sunday of each month at Bully's at 8 p.m. Feel free to contact Nathan Rau with any questions about the retreat or Group 133 in general.

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

Raising Young People to Know God and be Transformed by Christ

January 7th
ROCKLIFY
(The Rock and Amplify together)
After church until 2:00pm at CCLC. 3rd—5th Graders don't miss out on this energized time together. Pastor Jared and Amplify youth will be leading the charge. Among other things, we'll check out the new Gaga pit.

January 7th
IGNITE 6:00-7:30pm
Happy New Year! We'll gather at our regular time with Lynn for a time filled with faith & fun, re"igniting" our study of the parables.

January 13th
Trivia & Silent Auction!
Be ready to help with this awesome annual event where we have a blast with our church family and collect donations for our trip to the 2018 National Gathering in Houston! We will need all Amplify and Ignite Youth there beginning at 4 p.m. for set-up and ending at 9 p.m. after clean up. Many hands make light work! All youth planning to attend a summer trip are required to be present. If you have something to add to the Silent Auction please contact Suzanne Castleman.

January 19-21st
Ignite will be heading to the annual QUAKE Youth Gathering in St. Louis along with hundreds of other junior high teens from the region. Please pray that God would move and speak in mighty ways in and through hearts of our young people throughout this weekend!

January 21st
AMPLIFY
Youth will meet after church until 2 pm with Pastor Jared. Come and see what he has up his sleeve!

Be Like Jesus
Lock-in/Servant Event

Be Like Jesus is a 24-hour servant event for young people in 3rd-8th grade hosted by Faith Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, IL. This year the event is March 9-10 and it's jam-packed with music, games, activities, food, fun, and, of course, service. This is a great opportunity for your son/daughter to gather with other Christian young people from all over the metro area for a safe, fun, & Christ-centered event.

What Goes On? The *Be Like Jesus* youth will be divided into small groups by gender and age and are led by high school and college youth with the assistance of participating adults. All activities will be done in small groups—from games, Bible study, meals, sleeping, and serving. Some of the service activities include: making fleece blankets, collecting food for the food pantry, yard work, purchasing items at Wal-Mart for helping organizations, and much more. Service projects will impact the local, national and global community. This is a great way to teach young people about the simple things they can do to share God's love with others.

Sign up SOON! Registration is required. The cost is $35 per student (includes meals, program, and T-shirt) and needs to be received in the church office by January 28th. An online sign up will be sent out early in January.

Parents—You're needed, too! Parents, we need chaperones, so please consider helping out—it's an awesome event for ALL ages and as a special bonus you get a great opportunity to connect with your son/daughter. Questions? Please contact Pastor Jared!

Sunday School Resumes

After a break for the holidays and a teacher "retreat" on the 14th, **Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 21st.** Everyone, ages 3-adult, is invited and encouraged to attend. If you have never come to Sunday School before, this is another great New Year's resolution just waiting to happen! Childcare for children birth-2 years old is available. We are excited to have you join us for some amazing adventures, as the Holy Spirit leads us and guides us on this amazing journey of faith!

January Birthdays

1 Cole Abram
2 Neal Bockwoldt
Madi Powell
4 Bill Browne
5 Maya Speckhard
Matthew Spoljaric
6 Cail Furkin
Cole Carver
Samuel Blechle
7 Whitney Embick
9 Kathy Spoljaric
10 Bear Wheatley
11 Julie Reichert
12 Kati Bockwoldt
14 Maci Browne
15 Mae Descher
Zane Ebersohl
17 Catherine Kaestner
21 Rodger Renaud
22 Joe Madlinger
Brian Donovan
24 Mark Hendershot
Maddux Miers
Tim Sternau
26 Quincy Davis
31 Michelle Denny
Emmitt Wheatley

Hilltop Kids

Hilltop Kids Learning Center opened its new room on Monday, December 4th. The expansion allowed for Hilltop to increase capacity from 60 to 77 children. Six of the new available spots were already filled on Day 1. The remaining 11 spots will fill soon in the new year. Words from Jenese, our director say it all, "We are extremely excited to love and teach more children. 2018 is off to a wonderful start for the Weekday Children's Ministries. Thank you for all your support."

2018 Pledging By the Numbers*

52
Total Pledges

10
New Pledges

27
Increased Pledges

2
Decreased Pledges

$171,808
Total Pledged, 2018

$275
Avg Monthly Pledge

**-as of printing date*

Finances At a Glance

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 YTD Offering*
$ 178,288
Actual YTD Offerings*
$ 169,664
Net Difference
($ 8,624)

YTD Total Income**
$ 543,829
YTD Total Expenses**
$ 554,050
Net Difference**
($ 10,221)

Amounts as of the end of November

** - Member Giving Only*

*** - Income and Expenses for all operations including Weekday Children's Ministries*

Grow in God's Word for Your Life Every Week

Dig into God's Word each week

Week of January 7th — 1st Sunday of the Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Week of January 14th —2nd Sunday of the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139: 1-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Week of January 21nd —3rd Sunday of the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Week of January 26th —4th Sunday of the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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
(Resumes January 21st)

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.

January @ CCLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 31 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	1 Office and Programs Closed	2 7:45a Prayer Brkfst @ Aunt Maggie's	3 9:15a WCP Chapel 9:45a Staff 5p WCM Board	4 7a Amplify Wakeup Call 10a CCC Worship	5	6
7 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:45a Fireside Chat 12p Rocklify Youth (Rock and Amplify) 6p Ignite Youth 6P Walk Across the Room Study, CCLC	8 7p Boy Scouts	9 7:45a Prayer Brkfst @ Aunt Maggie's 6p Finance Team 7p Council 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Weber's	10 9:15a WCM Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30p Confirmation	11 7a Amplify Wakeup Call 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Haubein's	12	13 5p Youth Trivia & Silent Auction
14 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6P Walk Across the Room Study, CCLC 7:30p SSALT at Karen Walker's home	15 7p Boy Scouts	16 7:45a Prayer Brkfst @ Aunt Maggie's Newsletter Submission Deadline 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Weber's	17 9:15a WCM Chapel 9:45a Staff 6p Open Table 7p Faith in Action	18 7a Amplify Wakeup Call 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Haubein's	19 *Youth Quake - 19-21*	20
21 ***Sunday School Resumes*** 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 12p Amplify 6P Walk Across the Room Study, CCLC 8p Group 133 @ Bully's	22 7p Boy Scouts	23 7:45a Prayer Brkfst @ Aunt Maggie's 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Weber's	24 9:15a WCM Chapel 9:45a Staff 4:30 Confirmation 6p Mentor Mixer	25 7a Amplify Wakeup Call 7P Walk Across the Room Study, Haubein's	26	27
28 9a Sunday School 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	29 7p Boy Scouts	30 7:45a Prayer Brkfst @ Aunt Maggie's	31 9:15a WCM Chapel 9:45a Staff 7p—Explore Christ Community	Feb 1 7a Amplify Wakeup Call 10a CCC Worship	FEB 2	FEB 3

CCLC Staff Directory

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