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# THE CLC CHRISTMAS GAZETTE

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Sharing Christ's Love with Neighbors - Growing More Like Jesus



We may still be practicing physical distancing, but our hearts are strongly connected by our love of Jesus and our love for each other.

We wish you a blessed Christmas season and may the New Year find us healthy, happy, and worshipping together!

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The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Cor. 13:14

## WORSHIP

Due to the limitations of the CDC recommendations for in-person gatherings, we will continue to worship online only. We will send out updates on our plans for in-person worship as soon as the recommendations allow us to gather.

**Romans 15:5-6: Now may the God of endurance and comfort give you unity with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Sunday Mornings

We are currently offering only one option for Sunday morning worship, beginning at 10:30 a.m. each week.

Live-stream on Facebook: Join us on Facebook as we live-stream the service each Sunday. You will be able to see and hear the service as well as type in greetings and comments.

Go to: [facebook.com/clcpalatine/live](https://facebook.com/clcpalatine/live).

Recordings of the sermons are also available on our website. The most recent sermon is posted by Monday morning; older sermons are listed as well.

### Weekday Prayers with Pastor Joel

Pastor Joel offers prayers every week, Monday through Friday at Noon and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. There will be prayers and scripture readings. These short services are live-streamed on Facebook: [facebook.com/clcpalatine](https://facebook.com/clcpalatine).

Post comments, make prayer requests, join us!

### Spirited Women Christmas Party

Don your Christmas sweater (ugly or otherwise), grab a beverage and a snack and join us on Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom Christmas party. Contact Kathy Secora at [ksecora@mc.net](mailto:ksecora@mc.net) for a Zoom invitation e-mail. The Spirited Women wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a peaceful new year.

### Spirited Women Bible Study

We will begin a new study based on the book, "Hope," beginning Monday, January 11, 2021. For more information or a connection invitation, please e-mail Kathy Secora: [ksecora@mc.net](mailto:ksecora@mc.net). Zoom with us in 2021!

### Enhancing Relationships Task Force

New Small Group Studies coming in January. Sign up will begin after the New Year.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Sundays, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Live-stream on Facebook.

Weekdays: Prayers Monday through Friday at Noon and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook.

Wednesday evening Bible Study: will resume in the New Year.

Advent Midweek Service:  
Wednesdays at Noon on Facebook.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Service with Communion liturgy -- Live-stream on Facebook beginning at 4:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Music, prayer, and message on Facebook at 10:00 a.m.

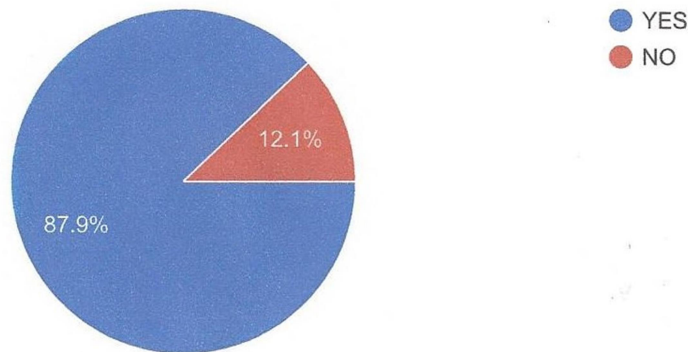
## OTHER NEWS

### Congregation Survey

In September, with hopes of being able to return to some sort of in-person worship, we surveyed the congregation to learn more about what you were thinking on this topic. Sadly, the case numbers rose rapidly and our plans for returning to in-person worship were cancelled. Many of the questions you posed were answered in the Fall Gazette. In addition, here are the responses to the questions that were asked in the survey.

If the church were to open for indoor services soon, would you attend if we adhered to social distancing and masks were required?

91 responses

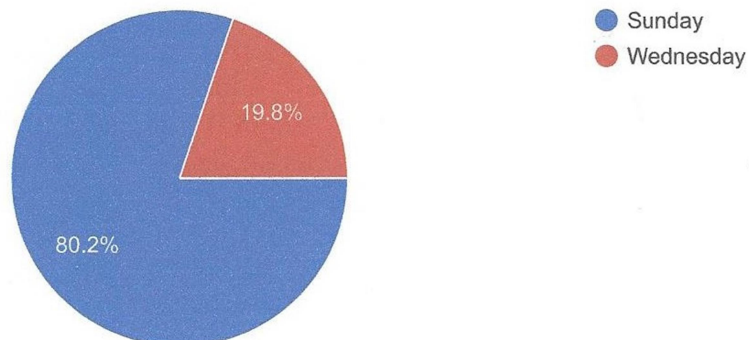


Some comments regarding why people answered "NO" to the above question:

- Not until a vaccine is available
- Need more time to get virus under control.
- I'm not comfortable attending ANY indoor gatherings at this time.
- Need more information from the CDC on how the virus might spread through heating and A/C systems

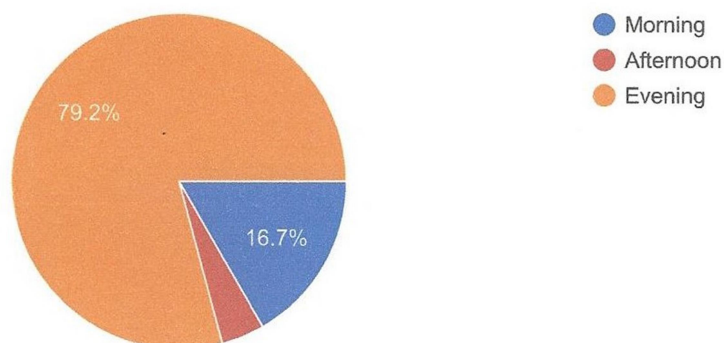
If restrictions on the number of attendees are still in place when we return to indoor worship, we would offer two services each week -- one on Sunday morning and one on Wednesday. You would have to choose ONE service each week. Would you be most likely to attend Sunday or Wednesday?

91 responses



If you chose Wednesday in the previous question, would you rather that service were held in the morning, afternoon, or evening?

24 responses



There is still much that is unknown about the virus and we are doing our best to keep up-to-date with CDC recommendations for in-person worship. Please know that we miss being with all of you and are looking forward with great anticipation to the day when we can worship God all together!

### Spirited Women Thanksgiving Project



Kathy Secora, acting on behalf of the Spirited Women Group, sent out Thanksgiving/Thinking of You cards with gift cards to the young people in our congregation. That project included 10 cards to those age 14 and under and 19 cards to those age 15 through college. We received some appreciative thank notes and e-mails. Many thanks to Kathy for taking on and completing this project.

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Again this year, you have been amazingly generous in providing Thanksgiving meals for families in need. We were able to fill SIX baskets and had additional items for the township to add to baskets for larger families



### Angel Tree



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Angel Tree Campaign. Through your generosity we were able to provide gifts for 25 seniors, 9 girls and 16 boys. Thanks, too, to Jessie Kalinowski and Monica Barclay for their efforts in planning, collecting, and delivering the gifts.

### Care Committee

The Care Committee continues their work maintaining the connections that keep us feeling like a community. Recently, 21 cards along with a poinsettia plant were delivered by Bob Magnussen and Debbie Petersen to our seniors who have been home-bound due to the pandemic. The response was overwhelming. Some of those visited had not seen anyone other than family members for 9 months! There were many smiles and even some tears. Our beloved Annetta Werneske commented that while she misses being in church very much, she is happy that her son, Don, comes over every Sunday to set up her computer so she can worship on-line with us. What a great guy Don is!





### **PADS Update**

What a great response to the requests for donations! Thank you!! The most recently collected meal kits were delivered on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. We have helped to fill many kits AND are also helping to feed the clients who come to Journeys. People Helping People (the group that coordinates the meal planning) isn't scheduled to provide more breakfast/lunch kits until the end of the month. An e-mail will be sent with any new requests. We can continue to replenish the supply of staples. If you have questions, please contact Arlene by e-mail: [arleneschneiss@gmail.com](mailto:arleneschneiss@gmail.com) or by phone: 847/651-1481.



### **Book Club**

The CLC Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This month's book discussion will focus on "The Van Appel Girls Are Gone" by Felicity McLean. The January selection will be "The Lions of Fifth Avenue" by Fiona Davis. For more information, please contact Jo Brynildssen by e-mail: [jolindbryn@gmail.com](mailto:jolindbryn@gmail.com) or by phone: 847/867-7879



### **Fiber Arts Ministry: Knitters/Crocheters**

With plenty of time (as well as yarn) on our hands, we'd like to offer a handmade prayer shawl to anyone who would appreciate such a gift. The recipient does not need to be a member of CLC.



Please contact Donna Blyth. If you would like to meet at Café 14 to work on a project while having some fellowship, please contact Donna for that as well: [d.j.blyth716@gmail.com](mailto:d.j.blyth716@gmail.com). If you have completed projects or are in need of yarn, please contact Vera Wisniewski by e-mail: [music.clcpalatine@gmail.com](mailto:music.clcpalatine@gmail.com) to arrange a day/time for drop-off/pick-up at the front porch of the church.

### **Many Thanks**

Having now returned to her own peaceful home, Vicki Drennon would like to thank everyone who called, texted, or sent her cards while she was recuperating. What a blessing it is to be so well-loved by the family of God!



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, FROM:

### The Vevangs & Stoffels



Here we are sharing the Thanksgiving pie on the deck – 46 degrees and delicious!

### Joanne Courtney

My son, Pat, sent me an Advent Bag. One activity was to create a blessing box – every day during Advent, think of a blessing you've had. Write it on a slip of paper and put it in your blessing box. Then on Christmas Day, open your box and read all your blessings. Also included in the Advent Bag was this card and message:



I really appreciated receiving the bag and hope others will enjoy this, too.

### John & Donna Blyth

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year for 2021!

### Doug & Arlene Schneiss

Merry Christmas! Blessings to you all!

### Jolinda Brynildssen and Bernie Rotermund

We wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



### Vera & Michael Wisniewski

While the pandemic has certainly affected the hugs we're able to give and receive, we've nonetheless had heaps of blessings bestowed upon us! Our son and daughter-in-law bought a sweet little house in Anaconda, MT. We're looking forward to a visit "out west" when we can finally travel again. And, my daughter and son-in-law added a little baby boy to our family! Henry James was born Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and we are all thrilled – especially his big sisters! (Their shirts read: "Big Sister/Brother Protector.")



We wish God's blessing to you and yours at Christmas and always!



### John Balster

Greetings of the season! This ornament, from Germany, graced my grandmother's Christmas tree for years and has been on our tree for almost 50 years.



And good news to share: My sister, Jane, will be moving from Clinton, Iowa to The Grand senior community on NW Highway in January. She is looking forward to joining the congregation.

### Jim & Kathy Secora

This is a picture taken when we were hiking in the Rocky Run/Oak Savannah Nature Area in Wisconsin. Two box canyons are a unique feature of this area. We took advantage of the relatively nice December weather to make a 3 day trip to our nearby lake house.



Wishing everyone a blessed and merry Christmas and a joyful new year!

### Paula & Mike McNutt



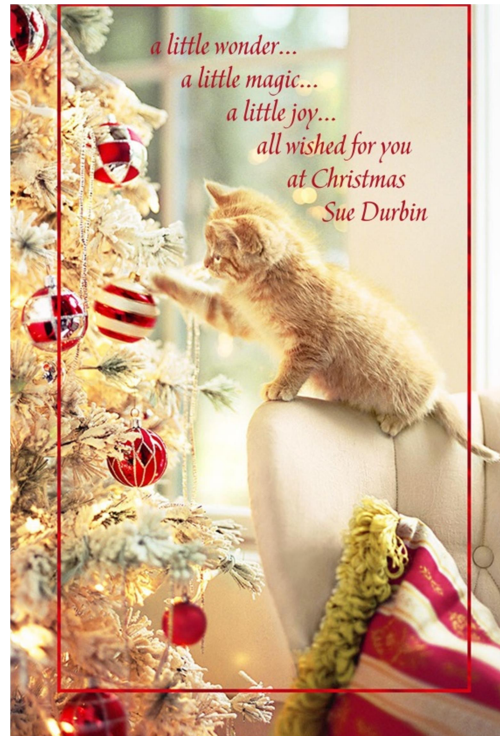
We are thinking outside the box this year with our non-traditional Christmas tree colors. Mike has been busy doing a daily set of online puzzles and word games which he accomplishes by noon. Meanwhile, Paula

sews and does home improvements. In the afternoon we take walks around the neighborhood and watch travel shows and nature programs. The highlight of our summer was getting a new fence! The old wooden posts were so weathered that they pulled right out of the ground, so we had new metal posts put in with wooden slats.

What can be said about 2020? That we can't wait to get rid of it and start fresh with a new year? That worldwide pandemics can be almost as bad as wars? That maybe this is God's way of bringing us all together by keeping us apart? That we hope the pandemic is overcome by a year from now? All of the above!! Bring on 2021!!

May God's peace be with you!

### Sue Durbin



## CLOSING THOUGHTS

T'was a month before Christmas and all through the town,  
People wore mask that covered their frown.  
The frown had begun way back in the spring  
When a global pandemic changed everything.

They called it corona, but unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times; it didn't bring cheer.  
Contagious and deadly this virus spread fast,  
Like a wildfire that starts when fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned,  
Borders were closed across air, sea and land.  
As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve,  
The economy halted and folks lost their nerve.

From March to July we rode the first wave.  
People stayed home, they tried to behave.  
When summer emerged the lockdown was lifted,  
But away from caution, many folks drifted.

Now it's November and cases are spiking.  
Wave two has arrived, much to our disliking.  
Frontline workers, doctors and nurses  
Try to save people from riding in hearses.

This virus is awful, this COVID-19.  
There isn't a cure; too early for vaccine.  
It's true that this year has had sadness a plenty;  
We'll never forget the year 2020.

And just 'round the corner - the holiday season,  
But why be merry? Is there even one reason  
To decorate the house and put up the tree,  
When no one will see it, no-one but me?

But outside my window the snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself, "Let's deck the halls!"  
So, I gather the ribbon, the garland and bows.  
As I play those old carols, my happiness grows.  
Christmas isn't cancelled and neither is hope.  
If we lean on each other I know we can cope!

*Author unknown, "borrowed" from a friend's Facebook page*

