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# THE CLC SUMMER GAZETTE

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

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**Welcome to the summer edition of the  
CLC Gazette!**



It's been a long summer and an even longer time since the beautiful faces of our Christ Lutheran congregation have filled these pews. We've missed worshipping together and we've missed fellowship. What's been happening in the lives of our friends? Has anyone done anything interesting? How are we coping with the stress of "social distancing"? Read on -- this newsletter has been written by and for the folks here at CLC. All the news that's fit to print is included. Sit back, relax, and enjoy! And know that we are working hard to find ways to safely worship corporately!

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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, PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY**

### **Sunday Mornings**

We are currently offering two options for Sunday morning worship. Both options begin at 10:30 a.m. each week.

Outdoor worship: Join us on the lawn for outdoor worship. We continue to practice social distancing and all attending must wear a mask. You must register to attend this service. **The registration phone number is: 708-341-4075.** This number is available Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Do NOT call the church phone number. You will be assigned a seating location when you call. If you have not pre-registered but find that you are able to attend, you are still welcome to join us. Please see an usher when you arrive. You will be asked for your contact information (for contact tracing if necessary). The ushers will then assign you a space based on availability.

Please bring: 1) your own chairs/lawn chairs, 2) masks for all attending, 3) a copy of the worship folder (e-mailed to you prior to the service), 4) your own bread and juice for communion if you wish to partake.

If the outdoor service must be cancelled due to weather, an e-blast will be sent by 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning. If you do not receive e-blasts, you will receive a phone call.

Please arrive no earlier than 10:15 a.m. Everyone needs to check in with an usher upon arrival. You will then be directed to your designated seating area.

An offering box will be available near the altar area. Please also consider electronic giving.

There will be NO physical sharing of the peace. Although music continues to be a part of our worship, we will not sing. Feel free to clap along as appropriate. We CAN and are encouraged to participate in corporate prayer and responsive readings – please use a moderate speaking voice when doing so.

The Communion liturgy is a part of worship. Pastor Joel will bless the bread and juice that each person/family has brought. We will commune together in our separate places.

Only the ADA bathroom (ramp access) will be available. The rest of the church remains closed and is not accessible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Susan Vevang (847-934-6925) or Monica Barclay (847-651-8631)

Live-stream on Facebook Perhaps you are not ready for corporate worship, are out-of-town, or feel unwell. The second option is to join us on Facebook as we live-stream the service each Sunday. Go to: [facebook.com/clcpalatine/live](https://facebook.com/clcpalatine/live). You will be able to see and hear the service as well as type in greetings and comments. This option is available come rain or come shine.

### **Weekday Prayers with Pastor Joel**

Pastor Joel offers prayers every week, Monday –Saturday at Noon. There will be prayers and scripture readings You can catch these short services live streamed on CLC's Facebook page: [facebook.com/clcpalatine](https://facebook.com/clcpalatine). Post comments, make prayer requests, join us!

### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

Each Wednesday night at 7:00 pm Pastor Joel has a Bible study online. These 15 minute sessions are currently taking the place of our regular Wednesday night casual worship. These can also be found at [facebook.com/clcpalatine](https://facebook.com/clcpalatine).

### **Monday Evening Bible Study**

Beginning Monday, September 14, a Bible study will be hosted by (a part of) the Monday Spirited Women Zoom meetings. Anyone who is on the Spirited Women Zoom "list" will receive an invitation to the study. Anyone not on the list can e-mail Kathy Secora ([ksecora@mc.net](mailto:ksecora@mc.net)) to be added. At the time this newsletter "went to press" a book had not yet been chosen for the study. It is hoped that the decision will be made on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**At CLC we are a community that loves each other and appreciates the blessings of fellowship. We know this time apart has been hard on everyone. While we are looking forward to the time we can be together again, please know that we are taking extra care now to remain safe and well.**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, ETC.

### GOD'S WORK/OUR HANDS

Submitted by Jessie Kalinowski

**September 6 is God's Work/Our Hands Sunday.** In partnership with other congregations in our area, we are encouraging our members to visit the wish list for Spruce Village on Amazon [Spruce Village Amazon Wish List](#) (hold down your "ctrl" key and click on the above link) and select an item or two to purchase. Have packages shipped to Craig Whitehead: 1170 Woodburn Ct, Inverness, IL 60067-4290. Baskets will be assembled at his home and delivered to the residents when they move in – currently planned for late October.

Spruce Village is a new housing development specifically for adults living with a mental illness and/or another disability but who are capable of independent living. Residents will have the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives through affordable permanent housing and access to supportive services. Typical services include case management, supported employment, assistance with healthcare management, community living skills and substance abuse treatment. Services will be overseen by the Kenneth Young Center and will make use of local resources, including those from Alexian Brothers.

The building is currently under construction near the intersection of Rand and Hicks Roads in Palatine.



### PADS

Submitted by Doug Schneiss

Due to social distancing requirements, PADS will look very different this year. We will not be able to host guests at CLC, but there will be other ways in which we can volunteer. We will be working with St. Thomas to supply food for the guests. As soon as more information is available, it will be shared with our congregation. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

### QUILTERS

Submitted by Paula Spengler

Do you have extra time on your hands these days? Are you looking for a project on which to work? We will have a few kits for quilt tops available before and after the Sunday morning outdoor worship services. They'll be located at the ushers' table. When you've completed the top, you may return it before or after outdoor worship – again, at the ushers' table.



### FIBER ARTS MINISTRY: KNITTERS/CROCHETERS

Submitted by Donna Blyth

All those who enjoy knitting and/or crocheting are welcome to create shawls or scarves (in any color) or baby blankets (preferably in white to be used as baptism gifts). Yarn will be available for you to pick up at the ushers' table before and after the outdoor worship services on Sunday mornings. A simple pattern for knitted scarves, or if made wider, shawls and lapghans, will be available alongside the yarn. Completed projects may be returned to the ushers' table as well.



### BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Jolinda Brynildssen/ Kathy Secora

The book club is also meeting by Zoom. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m. It is suggested that you get a copy of "Giver of Stars" by JoJo Moyes or "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michelle Richardson (*see more about this book in the article submitted by Marlene Aumuller*). Both books feature the story of the WPA initiated by Eleanor Roosevelt during the depression of the 30's. Women on horseback delivered books to rural areas of Appalachia to promote literacy. Those wishing to receive an invitation should email either Jolinda (jolindabryn@gmail.com) or Kathy Secora (ksecora@mc.net).

## NEWS FROM YOU

### FROM PASTOR JOEL

Hi everyone. This summer has been a time of taking care of flowers, vegetables and doing little jobs around our home and my office. I have learned how to make live videos for Noon Prayer and Wednesday Bible Study. The Psalms have taken new meaning for me and continue to be a source of comfort and peace. One of my constant prayers is: "give us today our daily bread". I'm thankful for God's daily mercy and grace.

### SHELTERING AT HOME

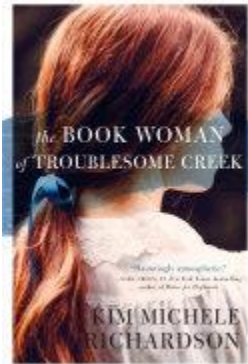
Submitted by Mike and Paula McNutt

We have been sheltering at home, especially since Paula retired from her full time job at the end of May. Mike likes to play computer games which mentally challenge him, while Paula continues her favorite hobbies of home projects, gardening, and sewing. We have traveled to the far corners of the globe virtually on TV, and kept a social distance while at various mini-golf clubs in the area. Thank heaven that we have been able to safely visit with our church friends at the outdoor services!

### A GOOD BOOK TO READ

Submitted by Marlene Aumuller

I've been reading many good books. One that really stands out is "The Book Woman of



Troublesome Creek" – a novel written by Kim Michele Richardson. Inspired by the true and historical blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" provides an authentic Appalachian voice to a story of hope, heartbreak and raw courage and shows one woman's strength, despite it all, to push beyond the dark woods of Troublesome Creek.

### THE JOY OF CLEANING

Submitted by Nancy Larsen

As many of you are doing, I decided to clean and declutter in my extra time. I have a closet-out of sight, out of mind! In the first box, receipts and check registers, some from 1978. Things were cheaper then. \$20.00 for an eye doctors appointment! Next box, a white pair of pants with hems taped. A requirement for a Sundling band concert, only she forgot to tell me until the day before. No time to shop. Thanks for the fabric stash! Dishes! Several sets of lovely China from family who said I would use it more than they. I haven't! A punch bowl with lots of little cups. Who uses punch bowls these days? Popping open a can of beer or coke seems to be our family norm. Books! Great titles for a quiet afternoon. Now a box of cards, letters and pictures. Who do these cute children belong to? Where are these old friends now? And a Christmas letter from my Mom, telling me about her holiday activities in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She had enclosed a few dollars for the kids and closed with wishes for a merry and blessed Christmas. It made me feel special! Now when I open an old box or clean off a cluttered shelf, I will smile and think of my Mom.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Submitted by Jo Brynildssen

We've enjoyed hiking and biking while visiting Yngvar's new home in Presque Isle, MI on Lake Huron.





## SECORAS GO TO BEMIDJI

Submitted by Kathy and Jim Secora

Our international travel plans this summer were moved out to next year, but we were getting some cabin fever and decided to take a local trip. We traveled to Bemidji, Minnesota, in early August to visit the nearby Itasca State Park where the headwaters of the Mississippi River are located. It is a hike to Bemidji - it is in northwest Minnesota and not too far from the border of Canada and North Dakota. But we thought it was worth all the driving to see the source of the Mississippi. Bemidji itself is a nice small town of 10,000. Like many small towns it has a kitschy claim to fame - a giant statue of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox named Babe.



Bemidji's other claim to fame is that it is the very first town along the Mississippi River. From Bemidji it is 35 minute drive south to Itasca State Park (yes, at its start, the Mississippi flows north!). This is a large park - about 10 by 15 miles in size. It has a lodge, a nice drive around the park, and many bicycling and hiking trails. But the big attraction is the headwaters of the Mississippi. Lake Itasca's outflow starts the Mississippi. The picture below is of Kathy wading in the middle of the Mississippi.



We both waded all the way across the Mississippi and back again without getting our pants wet! We enjoyed our trip and recommend a visit to Bemidji and Itasca State Park. Did I mention that Bemidji also has a brew pub? What more could you want?

## STILL AT IT

Submitted by Ken Spengler

Now that services are being held outdoors, live organ music is out of the question. In anticipation of returning to indoor worship, I continue to practice several mornings a week. The misfortune of COVID-19 has given me the opportunity to work on new selections and to dust off old ones. This month marks my 53rd year as your organist, a job that I love. I was hired in 1967 on a provisional basis and am still waiting to find out if I can stay.



*Editor's Note to Ken: Yes, yes, a thousand times yes; you can stay! May your eyesight remain keen and your fingers remain nimble for 100 more years!!!!*

## Hi!

Submitted by Barb Moller

Staying home alone for 6 months with great weather has been OK because I live in Twin Lakes Park with all the fowl life and on my patio in front of golf's 9th hole. Inside I have enjoyed several jigsaw puzzles, phone conversations,



reading for Zoom with book club, also Spirited Women Zooms. Outside church service is my outing and Pastor Joel's daily Bible Study has really helped me. Thank God for my family and friends sitting on the grass. God's blessings to you all.

## KEEPING BUSY

Submitted by Paula Spengler

Thank you to Pastor Joel, Vera, Ken, and Craig for Sunday services. I find a great deal of comfort in Pastor's words of hope and for the prayers and Bible sessions. Also for our Spirited Women Zoom times.

I have been involved in 2 projects.

One is to help a cousin as we gather memories of our 9 aunts on my Mother's side (Moe/Horvei).

Much time has been spent in communication and writing. We hope to prepare a booklet to share with our children.

Second, as I serve on the board for Friends of Lutheran World Relief, we have spent over 2 months trying to work out collecting sites for the annual InGathering of quilts and kits in October. In the midst of assuring contracts, our beloved president, Elizabeth Gotsch, died suddenly of a heart attack, our vice president had knee replacement, followed by the tragedy in Beirut of the loss of over 22,000 quilts and thousands of kits for Lutheran World Relief.

As we bar code, 37 CLC quilts were in the destroyed container. Other churches in our area lost all of their quilts and kits. Information needed to be sent to inform the changes in shipping. Thanks to board members for the announcement, to Kirsten for printing our labels, Ken for helping me in mailing over 300 announcements; another step was completed with more to come.

As CLC quilters, hopefully, we will be able to complete a few more quilts this fall. Thank you all for making kits/tops and your kind words of support.

Blessings to all for your safety as we continue through these days. Peace.

## I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

Submitted by John Balster





## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Submitted by Debbi Fuller

Zach had had an interesting past few months. He came home from school in March and started e-learning the next week. It was a challenging time for all of us! Zach's experience with his iPad was limited to watching YouTube music videos so the idea of using it to learn and do assignments was new for him. It was limited success but he really enjoyed the few Zoom meetings where he could see and interact with his teachers and peers.

In May he graduated from high school! He had a virtual graduation online. It was viewed by family and friends all over the country! Then they had a graduation parade at Palatine High School. All the teachers lined up along a winding path through the parking lot for cars to drive by slowly. Everyone cheered and clapped! Zach stood up in the car so he would see everyone through the sunroof. His smile was ear to ear! Then all his teachers had a car parade to honor all the seniors. He stood at the end of the drive in his cap and gown smiling and waving while a huge line of cars drove past our house honking and yelling. The neighbors came out to see what was going on. Then there was a bottleneck at the end of the cul-de-sac.

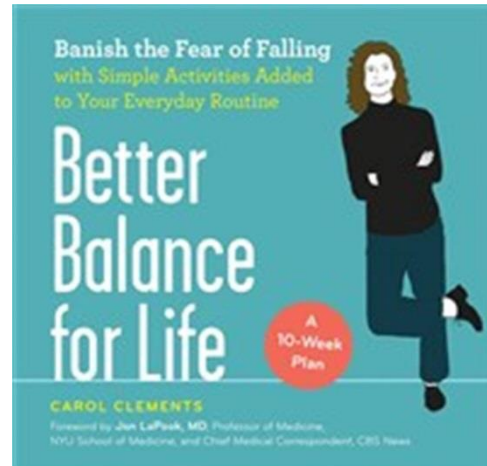
Finally there was a car parade organized by Tracy to honor graduates in the youth group. Again he wore his cap and gown and waved to everyone. The neighbors were warned this time so they all came out to celebrate! It was a wonderful time for Zach!

*Editor's Note: In addition to helping Zach navigate the world of e-learning, Debbi continues her work as our administrative assistant and bookkeeper, as well as being the face behind the voice on the phone for outdoor worship registration. Please be sure to thank her for all she does!*

## HOW'S YOUR BALANCE?

Submitted by Judy Rycombel

Did you know that one third of the people over 65 will lose their balance and fall? But you can do some simple exercises that will help prevent this from happening to you. An excellent book on this topic, recommended by well-respected organizations such as the National Osteoporosis Foundation, is titled "Better Balance for Life" by Carol Clements.



The author devised a 10-week plan to help improve your balance, posture, strength and flexibility while doing daily tasks like brushing your teeth, standing at the kitchen counter, taking a shower, watching TV and sitting at a desk. No fancy equipment needed: just a towel, chair, wall, and step stool.

The book costs anywhere from about \$11 through Amazon to \$15 through bookstores. People in chair yoga at CLC started using this book right before COVID-19 struck, so you can ask any of them for their opinions. And after the 10 weeks is over? Just keep practicing!

## FACE MASKS AND MORE

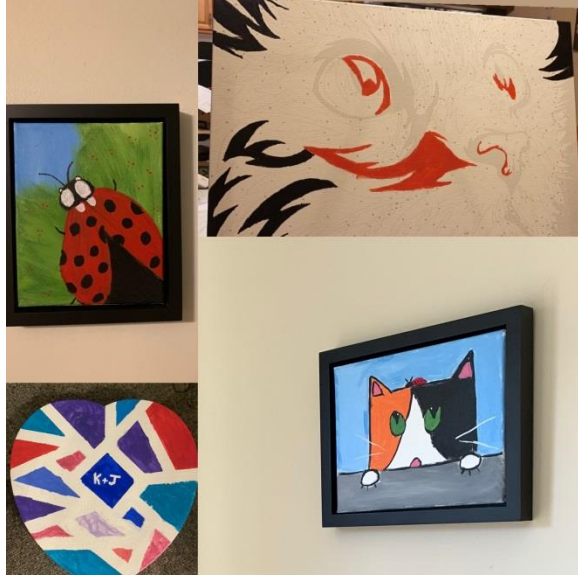
Submitted by Sue Durbin

I've spent quite a bit of time sewing face masks. If anyone needs any, feel free to contact me, I still have some. Over 200 went to Northwest Community Hospital. I'm also helping my niece with the sale of her large house.

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Submitted by Kirsten Petersen

During this time I have been doing some art projects! Mostly paintings, but I have plans to do a diamond painting kit and to knit a chunky blanket. Here are some of the projects I did and the one paint by number I am currently working on!



### KNIT ONE, PURL A LOT

Submitted by Vera Wisniewski

Like everyone else, I've spent a jillion hours at home since this whole pandemic started. I've been blessed to be able to spend a month of that time with my son and daughter-in-love in residence at our house. I do come in to the office a few mornings each week to plan and prepare for weekly worship. This gives my retired husband a welcome respite from my company. And, I have spent many, many hours knitting. I managed to complete one full-sized afghan, one shawl, four baby blankets, and four sweaters: two for myself and two for my sweet granddaughters.



With the start of remote learning school, these two lovelies will be "doing" school at our house two days a week. We're looking forward to building strong, loving relationships during our time together – or we won't all come out alive; time will tell 😊

### WEBSITE UPDATE

The Christ Lutheran Church website is new and improved! Check it out! It's really user friendly and easy to use. Pictures are being updated (an ongoing work-in-progress) and the calendar is being filled with virtual meetings whether through Zoom or Facebook. You'll see ways to connect with others.

### IN CLOSING

Hope, in the Biblical sense, is NOT a kind of weak desire or wish as in "I hope the weather will be nice tomorrow." NO! Biblically, hope is a confident expectation that something good is going to happen!

*(Taken from "Leading Hope with Hope" – Greg Olgers, in "News from Hope [College]")*

**We HOPE to see you soon!**