

Christ Lutheran Connections



**Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
Meridian Idaho**

A Church of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

"Christ Lutheran Church exists to glorify God, by making disciples that reach up, reach in, and reach out."

Spring Cleaning for the Soul



Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Lenten Journey

There is a line toward the end of T. S. Eliot's poem, "Ash Wednesday", that says "This is the time of tension between dying and birth, the place of solitude where three dreams cross."

In the infant years of the church, there was a long period of preparation that led up to one's baptism. It was a time observed through fasting, solitude, prayers and reflection. The one who was about to be baptized was living between dying and birth, between an end to the old self and a rebirth to new life as a child of God.

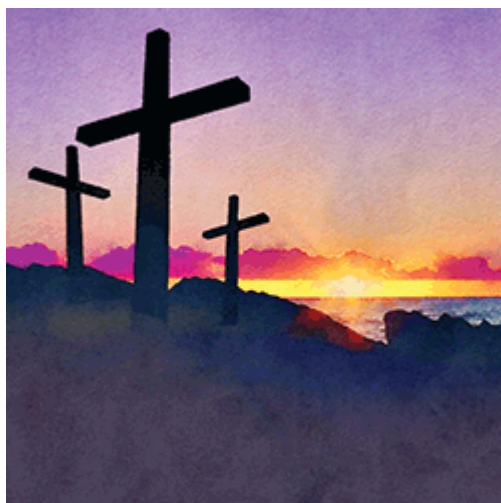
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will move through Lent, arriving at Holy Week prepared for the Passion of our Lord. In Lent, as each of us live between the tension of dying and birth, we are led by Christ into new possibilities for ourselves, our families and our church. Indeed, it was Martin Luther who suggested that repentance was a continual crawling back to the font, the baptismal womb-of-our-faith. Our Lenten journey can be an occasion for renewal focused on our baptismal remembrance and centered upon Christ's death and resurrection. It can be a time when our lives are changed, and our Lord and His church are placed in proper relation to one's total life.

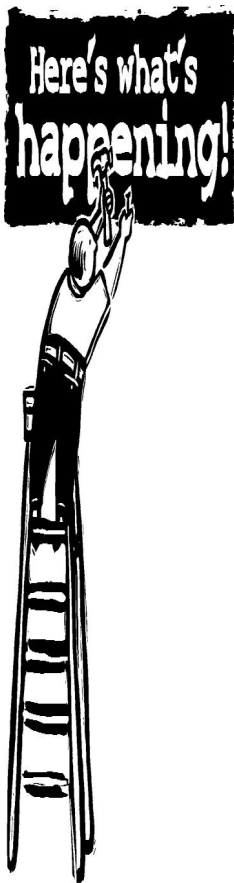
Lenten Series

Our Lenten Series this year will take us through Exodus. A journey to be *set free* by the Gospel in the Old Testament.

Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus

- 1. Ash Wednesday: The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries, Exodus 2:23–25**
- 2. Lenten Midweek 2: The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us, Exodus 3:1–15**
- 3. Lenten Midweek 3: The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20**
- 4. Lenten Midweek 4: The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy, Exodus 12:1–14**
- 5. Lenten Midweek 5: The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us, Exodus 14:5–31**
- 6. Lenten Midweek 6: The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey, Exodus 16:1–18, 35**





February 2026 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in February are:

- Black History Month — February 1-28, 2026
- Groundhog Day — February 2, 2026
- Valentine's Day — February 14, 2026
- Transfiguration Sunday — February 15, 2026
- Presidents Day — February 16, 2026
- Ash Wednesday — February 18, 2026

CHURCH CALENDAR DATES:

February 1 Sunday Worship 10 AM w/ Holy Communion~ **VOTER'S MEETING**
 February 5 Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm
 February 8 Sunday Worship 10 AM w/ Holy Communion
 February 11 LWML Meeting 1 pm
 February 12 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm
 February 14 Life Line 8-5
 February 15 Sunday Worship 10 AM w/ Holy Communion
 February 18 **ASH WEDNESDAY Service 7 pm w/ Holy Communion**
 February 22 Sunday Worship 10 AM w/ Holy Communion
 February 25 **LENT MID-WEEK Supper 6 pm Service 7 pm**
LWML Card Making Saturday February 28 10am-1pm



LifeLine Screening Will be at CLC

on Saturday, February 14th from 8:30-5:30 You MUST pre-register for this visit, so contact Kathy in the office for more info.

Sunday the 18th of January, we dedicated some new art work for our church. These beautiful wood carvings were hand-made for us by Dr. Ken Schmidt. Check them out in the Sanctuary!

Thank you Dr. Ken!



Celebrating Birthdays are:

- 4) Nicole Collins
- 09) Cheryl Schmidt
- 13) Marian VanAusdal
- 16) Pyllis Purvis
- 18) Amy Werhane
- 19) Grant Jones
- 26) Laci Bader
- 26) Renee & Ruth McCoy



CHURCH INFORMATION

Caring Ministries

FEBRUARY 2026

Sick & Shut-in



SHUT-INS: Are you curious about what it entails to visit a

shut-in?

It is a very easy task. It usually only takes 30 minutes to an hour of your time. It can be a very rewarding thing, to get to know those members who cannot travel to church. If you have more questions, please contact Judy Krause for more info.

Next month, we will have Shut-in gifts to be delivered for Easter. Please reach out to Judy if you can help deliver/visit these people.



Meridian Food Bank: For the month of February we are asking members of CLC to donate 6 boxes of Macaroni and Cheese.

MERIDIAN AND BSU FOOD BANK NEEDS

Through the end of March, we are collecting food donations for the Meridian and BSU Food Bank. Please consider adding something from the list below to your shopping cart.

CANNED VEGETABLES	DRY CEREAL
PANCAKE MIX	SYRUP
CANNED FRUIT	PORK & BEANS
SOUP	CHILI
MEAT RAVIOLI	STEW
PEANUT BUTTER	JELLY
TUNA	DRY BEANS
INSTANT POTATOES	PASTA
DRY RICE	SPAGHETTI
SAUCE	
RAMEN NOODLES	COOKIES/
CRACKERS	
MAC & CHEESE	LG. FRUIT
JUICE BOXES	

Diapers, formula and other things for babies are also needed. Individually packed items are needed also as 'treats' for the children who accompany their parents to the Food Bank to pick up food.





ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1Peter 4:10)

Christ Lutheran Church's LWML meeting on **January 14, 2026** had 12 attendees.

The Red Stocking collection from Advent by Candlelight raised **\$205.65** for CLC's Preschool

Our next Shut-in visits will take place before Easter.

We are collecting all-occasion **used cards** in the narthex, below the mail boxes. We set **February 28, 2026 from 10am-1pm** as a **card-making day** which will be led by Holly. This will be **open to all members** of the congregation. You just need to bring yourself, (glue if you have some), and maybe a sack lunch for when we finish.

Looking forward; CLC LWML will host the **Fall Rally in October 2026**. We will keep you posted.

Utah-Idaho LWML has found candidates to fill all the positions that will open up at convention.

We are going to be collecting pill bottles of all sorts in the narthex in the cubbies below the mailboxes. This is for the **Matthew 25 Ministries**. More information to come.

Upcoming Dates:

- Next LWML meeting is **February 11, 2026 @ 1pm**. All ladies are welcome! J
- Western Zone Spring Rally** at Beautiful Savior LCMS in Boise will be held **April 18, 2026**
- Utah-Idaho LWML's 40th Biennial District Convention** will be held **May-1-3, 2026 @** Grace Lutheran Church and School in Pocatello, Idaho.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamla Quisler
CLC LWML President

THE TREE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL WILL REMAIN UP UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY FOR COLLECTING HATS, MITTENS, AND GLOVES FOR THE "CITY OF LIGHTS"





Christ Lutheran Preschool

A Ministry of Christ Lutheran Church
FEBRUARY News

Happy New Year!! 2026 started off a little rough for the preschool as we were hit hard with the super flu. After a short closure and massive deep clean...everyone is back healthy, happy and ready to learn!! We have our mitten tree set up in the fellowship hall and are collecting hats and mittens to donate to families in need. We use this opportunity to teach our preschoolers the importance of giving to those less fortunate.



Thank you! Caroline Hussmann

*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6*

Puzzle!

We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

JUST FOR KIDS



Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

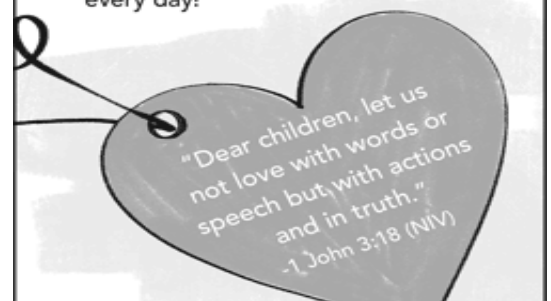
What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



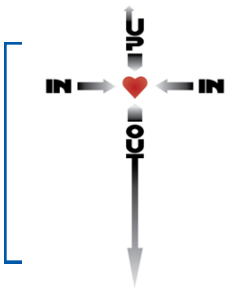
?? Bible Quiz ??

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



- A) Eros
- B) Phileo
- C) Agape
- D) Storge

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & Preschool

A Church of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Christ Lutheran Church
& Preschool**
1406 West Cherry Lane
Meridian, ID 83642-5717

Email address:
office@clcmeridian.org

Web address:
www.clcmeridian.org

(208) 888-1622 - Church Office

Church Staff:

Rev. Dan Jones

Kathy Whalen, Church and Preschool Office Manager
Mrs. Teresa Whalen, Treasurer

Preschool Staff:

Mrs. Caroline Hussmann, Preschool Director
Mr. Jake Greenwalt, Preschool Teacher
Mrs. Caroline Hussmann, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Trinity Dexter, 2 year old class

Worship Schedule:

Worship Service at 10:00am
Fellowship Time follows worship
Christian Education Hour at 11:30am:
Sunday School & Bible Studies for all ages

Church Office Hours:

9 am- 2 pm Wednesday and Thursday
Pastor in office Tuesday-Thursday