



# Christ Lutheran Church REPORTER

**October 2019**

A Publication of  
Christ Lutheran Church  
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Natick, MA 01760

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**Leaders of the Congregation:**

- George Hall, President
- Hannele Saramo-Raja, Vice President
- Edie Lohr, Treasurer
- Dorothy Nail, Secretary
- Carol Virshbo, Professional Leadership
- Laraine Marthinsen, Flowers
- Mary Avalos, Family Promise
- Robin Hurst, Family Promise
- Coffee Hour - open
- Frank Miller, Financial Secretary
- John Whitlock, Resource
- Amy Lousararian, Endowment
- Edie Lohr, Altar Guild
- Phil Roberts and Kim Petot –WMWA
- Bruce Schnepfer, Property
- Jeffrey P. Kinney, Stewardship
- Martha Cronin, Communications
- Janice Laakko, Visitation/Card

**Congregation Council:**

- George Hall (2020)
- Dorothy Nail (2020)
- David Pellauer (2020)
- Hannele Saramo-Raja (2020)
- Hilding Hedberg (2021)
- Celeste Larson (2021)
- Amy Lousararian (2021)
- Peter Miller (2021)
- Edie Lohr (2022)
- David Ripp (2022)
- John Whitlock (2022)
- Ellen Zagajeski (2022)



**GOD'S WORK - OUR HANDS**

Inter-generational efforts to craft hand-made quilts for immigrant children who stay at Iglesia Luterano Cristo Ray in El Paso, TX are ongoing.

Fundraising for the purchase of a mini-bus for Cristo Rey continues as we await their availability for auction.





## Pastor's Page

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Two Saturdays ago, Joyce Simon and I participated in a “Guardian Angels” training workshop offered by **AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities)** ministry. Rolf Larson had attended an earlier training. The role of Guardian Angels is simple: to live out the first “A” of AAMPARO—accompaniment—by being the physical presence of the church with migrant children and their families when they appear in court.

Rolf has already gone to Boston’s Immigration Court, and was struck by the compassion of Judge Robin Feder, who hears the cases there, asking the children about things that concern children, such as school. What follows is excerpted from the report of two other Guardian Angels (who were also members of the May border immersion), included with their permission. **From Steve:**

Lindsay and I visited Judge Feder’s courtroom this morning. Taking a leaf from Doreen’s notebook, I decided to just start talking and engaging with everyone in the waiting areas. Since everyone not talking with their lawyer was just quietly waiting, it was easy to get peoples’ attention. Having the *pro bono* lawyer list was an entrée into introducing myself and then entering into conversations. As soon as people heard that I/we were there to help and had such a list, they were fine, if not happy, to talk. More than one family thanked me for reaching out, and there were several smiles as well. When mentioning the list of welcoming churches, one person asked for information, and a couple commented that their churches were very supportive of them.

I can’t help but mentioning being moved by [Lindsay’s] gumption in standing up and saying to everyone present that she’d like to offer a prayer for them on this important day. Immediately, everyone present stood to their feet and readied for prayer. By this point, we had made friends with a Guatemalan woman who was there with her two teens, and she helped Lindsay with pronunciations for a word or two, which was also neat because she was providing leadership alongside us. It felt very special to be all praying together and being together, if only for a moment, of offering ourselves to God. Both of us also handed out individual prayer cards to some persons.

### **From Lindsay:**

First, I was touched by the Guatemalan woman's help and support of us, even as we were there to try to support those in court proceedings. I was nervous about being there for the first time and not knowing the lay of the land, and her offer of open conversation, explanation of how things have gone during their previous visits to court, and Spanish help lowered the barrier of entry to having conversations with others in the room and feeling comfortable offering resources and support. I often think about different places where I meet God, and yesterday I was lucky to meet God through this woman's kindness and openness.

The second moment that stood out to me happened at the very end of our time there as we left the court room. Some new people had arrived in the waiting area since we had entered the court room, and as we were leaving, Steve decided to check if the new folks in the room also had representation. One young couple with a small child looked particularly distressed and got our attention. They did not speak English, but the father anxiously took out a beat-up document that seemed to be the call to appear in court for their small child. He pointed at the paper and then at their child, and they looked at us hoping we could do something. The Guatemalan woman joined us to help translate. Steve figured out which law firm was closest to where they live, and he marked it on the page of legal resources that we then gave to them. Although we couldn't help in any kind of immediate or direct way, hopefully at least providing them that page lightened their load in a small way.

Christ Lutheran Church became an AMMPARO “Welcoming Congregation” several months ago, pledging an intentionality around being the face of the Church—of Christ himself—with regard to migrant minors and their families. I am grateful beyond words for the responsiveness of this congregation when asked to support the visit of Pastora Rose Mary and her family in August, and to purchase a minibus for her ministry in El Paso. Now CLC youth are undertaking to make child-sized quilts for the migrant children who pass through Cristo Rey with nothing to call their own.

Are we called to expand on this response? These are the commitments out of which our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, established the AMMPARO program:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

If you would like to learn more about the Guardian Angels program, click here: <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>

If you would like to learn more about how you might advocate for justice for the alien in our land, click here: [www.elca.org/Advocacy](http://www.elca.org/Advocacy)

If you have ideas about how CLC can grow in our accompaniment of migrant minors and their families, ~~click here:~~ speak with me!

Peace.

Pr. Rebecca Bourret

## Adult Forum for October:

On October 6, we'll conclude our discussion of reading scripture through a Lutheran lens. In the ensuing weeks, we'll put that understanding to the test, examining some of the harder biblical texts—those that are, largely at least, omitted from the three-year lectionary.

October 13 Joshua 2

October 20 Genesis 38

October 27 Judges 19, [20-21]



### Bible Studies

**Come, join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** to experience Bible discussions with Pastor Richard Hurst. These sessions will last one hour. Coffee, tea, and cookies are provided.

My family and I are so appreciative of those that were involved in Lisa Kane's service, and all the support and care that was provided by so many at Christ Lutheran for Lisa's funeral and reception.

Christ Lutheran Church was very important during Lisa's childhood, from Baptism to Sunday School to Confirmation. She even went to music camp at Calumet. Later, the Niemann Pick Disease prevented attendance although she still recognized pictures of people and church activities. It is just an example of the possibilities of the long-term impressions we can leave on those that we meet along life's journey.

**Thank you to everyone,**

**Susan Kane**



**From Family Promise...** " Please extend my appreciation to all at Christ Lutheran for your generous support today and over the year. We are truly grateful!". **Sue Crossley, Executive Director**



**Do you have a friend or family member who would enjoy receiving an inspirational card from our church?**

Please give Janice Laakko the information, and she will ensure that a card or cards are sent to your friend or loved one.

## MUSIC NOTES

Musical style in Lutheran worship has often been a point of tension and discussion in congregations, sometimes dividing parishes into “traditional” and “contemporary” camps. When I was growing up in a large Lutheran church in the Washington, DC suburbs, we sang the same liturgical setting every week at all three Sunday services, with little discussion! (Fortunately, Setting II from the 1958 Service Book and Hymnal was a truly transcendent musical setting.) At Christ Lutheran we enjoy a variety of relatively traditional musical settings of the liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship on most Sundays. But we also appreciate incorporating freer musical styles regularly during the year: African, Hispanic, Jazz, Gospel, Bluegrass and some “popular” as well. All of these traditions are classic: that is, they have qualities that transcend current popularity.

What a variety of music we have planned for September, October and November worship: September-Fest featured the bluegrass sounds from “Of the Land and Seasons.” On September 29, Nick Page led a gospel style service including “Fill me up” and “Sweet Honey in the rock.” For Reformation Sunday, October 27, we’ll have samples of music from all of the CLC ensembles: CLC Choir, Bell Choir, World Band, Land and Seasons Band. For the Evening Prayer Service on Sunday, November 3 we’ll feature music from Latin America and South America, including some steel drumming.

This musical buffet depends on an impressive core of music, old and new: hymns, choral music, instrumental music, quality musical instruments and training. Our particular success in offering this variety depends on the rich backgrounds and talents of our CLC members and friends and the support of our congregation...For which we can all give thanks and praise to God!

Tom Berryman  
Music Director

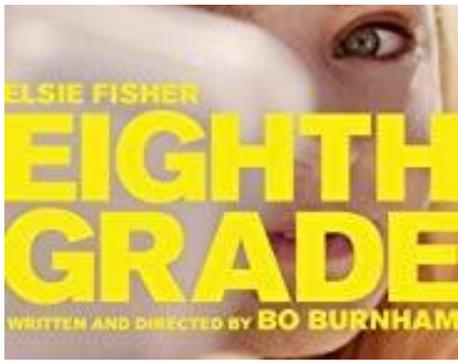


Nick Page, along with the CLC Choir leads the congregation in song, 9/29. At right , soloists Gail Weston Roberts, soprano, and Kim Peto, alto.

~ Photos courtesy of Ruth Colson



CLC@ the Movies - Sunday, Oct. 20., 4 p.m.



## Eighth Grade

Shy and awkward, thirteen-year-old Kayla struggles with the pressures of suburban adolescence in this coming-of-age film that chronicles the last five days of her eighth-grade year. Other teens who viewed the film said that despite its R rating it portrays a realistic view of their own experiences. A film for teens and their parents.

The potluck that follows will feature memorable cafeteria food that you enjoyed back in the day. No food, no problem! Join us anyway for the afternoon movie.

### Immigration Crisis: Lives at Risk at our Southern Border. What can you do?

Please join us on Wednesday, October 16 for a conversation with people on the front lines, helping those seeking a better life to safely immigrate to our country. This event, being held at the Courtyard Marriot at 275 Tremont St, Boston, is free and open to the public. Please register at <http://bit.ly/immigrationcrisis2019> or call (857) 990-3670. **Sponsored by A Faith that Does Justice, [www.faith-justice.org](http://www.faith-justice.org).**

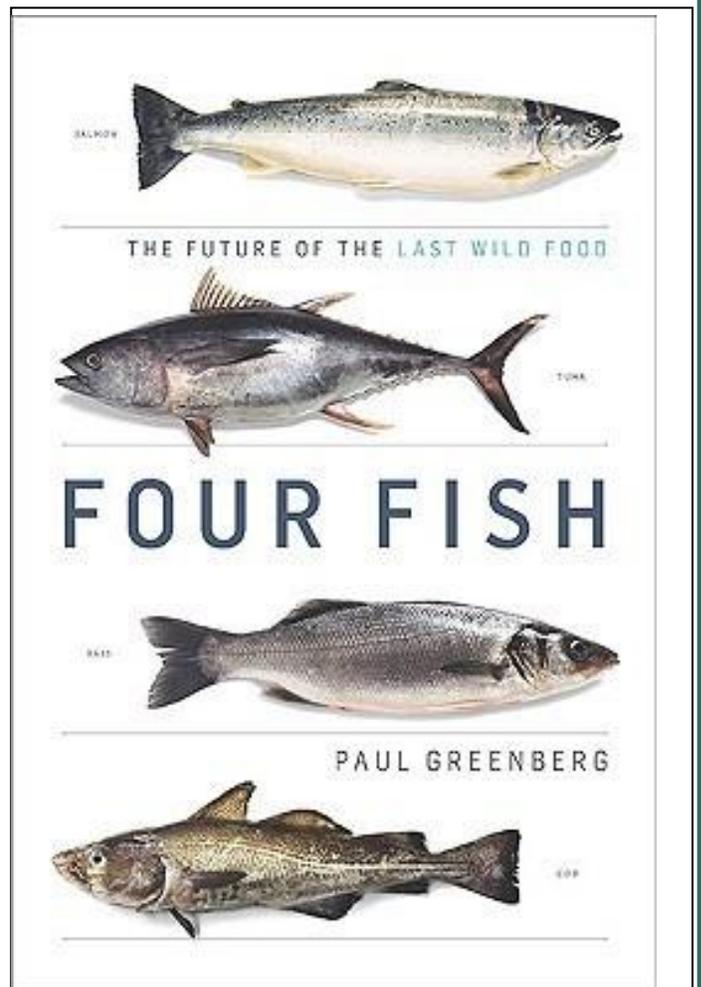
### CLC Book Group Hosts Environmental Group for October 16 Discussion

Members of a local sustainability book group are joining with members of CLC this month to read Paul Greenberg's acclaimed book **Four Fish**, recommended by Pastor Bourret. Overfishing has decimated wild fish stock and farmed fish bring with them issues of pollution and contamination. What is our response?

Greenberg, himself a life-long fisherman, looks at the four fish that currently appear on our tables: tuna, salmon, bass, and cod, examining the domestication and preservation efforts currently aimed at sustaining them. Reviewers have found the book to be "balanced, pragmatic, and realistic." The writing inspires readers to become stewards of aquatic wildlife.

Join your Natick and Metrowest neighbors for a lively discussion of this last frontier of "wild food".

**Wednesday evening, October 16, 7:00 p.m. (note the earlier starting time)**





# KEEP THE PROMISE 2019

## SAVE THE DATE

Please join Family Promise Metrowest for an Evening of Food Tasting and Auction to Benefit Families Facing Homelessness



November 2, 2019



6:00pm-10:00pm



Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center  
1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA



## ASSISTING LIST FOR OCTOBER 2019

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Assistant
October 6th	Pent 17	10:00 a.m.	Deb Bianco Nadia Salerno	Isaac Ripp	Russell Pollard	Martha Cronin	Joyce Simon
October 13th	Pent 18	10:00 a.m.	Pamela Bathen Robin Hurst	Jackie Stjernfeldt	Carol Virshbo	Russell Pollard	Cathy Gallagher
October 20th	Pent 19	10:00 a.m.	Deb Bianco Patricia Bianco	Kirsten Kirleis	George Hall	Gail Weston-Roberts	Robin Hurst
October 27th	Reformation Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Ruth Colson Deb Bianco	Liana Chan	Marianne Swenson	Carol Virshbo	Phil Roberts

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Coffee Hosts	Altar Guild	Tellers	Cantors
October 6th	Pent 17	10:00 a.m.	Cathy Gallagher Eric & Kathleen Kirleis	Amy Lousararian Robin Hurst	Phil Roberts John Whitlock	Kim Petot
October 13th	Pent 18	10:00 a.m.	Beth Gillece-Castro Laraine Marthinsen	Ellen Zagajeski Judy Precious	John Whitlock Alan Avalos	Hilding Hedberg
October 20th	Pent 19	10:00 a.m.	Margit Smith Carol Virshbo	Ellen Zagajeski Judy Precious	Audrey Colson Neal Fitzpatrick	Bob Weaver
October 27th	Reformation Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Ellen Zagajeski Rev. Richard & Robin Hurst	Carol Virshbo Edie Lohr	George Hall Hilding Hedberg	John Whitlock

# Christ Lutheran Calendar - Month of OCTOBER 2019

For most up-to-date calendar information view online at: <http://www.christnatick.org/calendar/clc/>

Christ Natick, Christian Holidays, Office Hours, Youth & Family							Oct 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5
29 10am - Gospel Service 11:15am - Coffee Hour	30	1	2	3 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	4 Feast of St Francis of	5					
6 Pledge Sunday 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour	7	8 8pm - Resource	9	10 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	11	12					
13 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour	14	15 7pm - Book Group,	16	17 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	18	19					
20 Reformation 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour 4pm - CLC @ the 5pm - Wonder and	21 Reporter Deadline	22 7:30pm - Council	23	24 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	25	26					
27 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour	28	29	30	31 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	1 All Saints' Day	2 All Souls' Day					



1 Give thanks for ELCA Disability Ministries and its work of connecting and assisting congregations, ministries and members to invite all people into full participation in this church and in the world. Pray that the Spirit will enrich and further the work and advocacy of intellectual and developmental disabilities ministries, mental illness ministries, deaf ministries, and blindness and visual impairment ministries.

2 Give thanks for the reelection of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen her faith and will grant her wisdom, compassion and vision for the ministry of leadership to which she has been called.

3 Pray for our congregations that serve neighbors in need through food and clothing pantries, community meals, homeless shelters, community gardens, employment assistance and partnerships with local churches and organizations.

4 *St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226* Pray that our faith and lives may exemplify Francis' simplicity, service, respect for others and care for creation and all creatures.

5 Remember in prayer the Rev. Elizabeth Johnson, the Rev. Brian Palmer, the Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, Elie Sanda, Arnie and Willibroad Langdji, and James and Lorreva Foster — ELCA missionaries serving in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon, the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the Lutheran World Federation in health care, development, women's and youth ministries, Bible translation and literacy, and primary, secondary and theological education.

6 Pray that, as people of faith and disciples of Christ, we may demonstrate through our words, actions and service a spirit of humility that expects no reward, recognition or repayment.

7 Praise God for the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association and the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, organizations that support, advocate for and equip Lutheran schools, educators, professionals and volunteers involved in faith formation ministries through our congregations and partner organizations.

8 Pray for the people of Puerto Rico, that their hope will be renewed and sustained; that they will have good, just governance and smooth transitions between political leaders; and that they will experience progress in their economic recovery and their long-term recovery from Hurricane Maria. Ask God to bless the ministry, service and witness of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América Sinodo del Caribe (Caribbean Synod), its leaders and its congregations.

9 Consider how our faith in Jesus Christ, God's grace, the word of God, the witness of other people of faith and the calling we have through our baptism has influenced and changed us — and give thanks!

10 Thank God for the ways our church engages its members and leaders in discernment, biblical study and reflection, prayerful decisions and commitments, and teachings that help us grow in understanding of how our faith intersects with daily life and society. Pray that the recently approved social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* will guide and inspire us to act on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.

11 We are a church that believes the God-given gifts of science and technology should be used to respect and promote communities, life and human dignity. Pray that the Spirit will guide us in conversations about how faith and science intersect and that we will be mindful of the impact of technology — intended and unintended — on humanity and creation.

12 Ask for God's help to resist the temptations of envy and greed that draw us away from trusting God and committing our lives and endeavors to God.

13 Just as the one leper returned to thank and praise Jesus for healing him, we pray that we, too, will be eager to thank, praise and worship God for God's miraculous, awesome love and healing presence in our lives.

14 Remember in prayer our ELCA missionaries working in education, evangelism, parish ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership development with our companions in Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

15 *St. Teresa of Ávila, 1515-1582* St. Theresa was known for her life of contemplation and prayer, her theological reflection and writing, and her strong identification with people suffering poverty and illness. Remember the people who have helped shape our faith, values and life, and pray that, through the work of the Spirit, our faith, example and service will have a positive influence on our neighbors, the church, society and the world.

16 Pray for the members who serve on their congregation councils, that God will help them lead with wisdom, vision and compassion as they guide and manage their communities of faith for mission.

17 Remember God's just and merciful works throughout history, the help and compassion we receive, the gifts and resources that sustain our lives, and the new covenant made with us in Jesus Christ.

18 Pray for the countries of Central America, especially for children and youth who are traumatized by violence and have fled to other countries; for an end to gang violence and drug trafficking; for a more just distribution of wealth; and for Christians and communities of faith to have courage and persistence in living out the gospel.

19 Pray that we will seek ways of supporting and affirming youth and family ministers in their work of faith formation, equipping young people with life skills, engaging young people in service, supporting parents and inspiring and encouraging new leaders.

20 Pray that the Spirit will make us persistent and fearless in our prayers, especially on behalf of people who long for justice, mercy, peace and relief from suffering.

21 Look around and listen to the people you have encountered today. Remember in your prayers their joys, struggles, questions and sorrows.

22 Pray for the Lutheran World Federation's global study of contemporary Lutheran identities as they are lived in the local contexts of Lutheran churches, and for the leaders now gathering for "We Believe in the Holy Spirit: Global Perspectives on Lutheran Identity," a global consultation hosted by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

23 Pray that we will be bold witnesses, evangelists and teachers inspired, equipped and sent by the Spirit and our sisters and brothers in Christ to proclaim the gospel and to counsel, encourage and help people to discern truth from falsehood.

24 Give thanks for the ELCA's long-standing commitment to interreligious and ecumenical relations that promote understanding among Christians and greater unity among Christ's people.

25 With humility and gratitude, give thanks to God, the creator of all that exists, for being our sure and trustworthy help throughout life.

26 Give thanks for musicians, composers and writers who share their gifts and skills to help us give expression to our faith and worship and to praise God together through hymns, music, songs and liturgies.

27 *Reformation Sunday* Praise God! Give thanks that Jesus — the light and truth given for the world — sets us free from sin and the bondage of death, and transforms us for lives of love, mercy, peacemaking, serving our neighbor and sharing the good news with everyone.

28 Pray that our church's relationships with the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ will continue to grow, and that we will share resources and utilize people's diverse voices and gifts to do God's work in the world and serve our neighbor.

29 Give thanks for the message of the apostle Paul — which had a profound impact on Martin Luther and the foundational beliefs of our church — that we are all flawed and broken human beings yet are reconciled to God by God's gift of mercy and love in Jesus Christ.

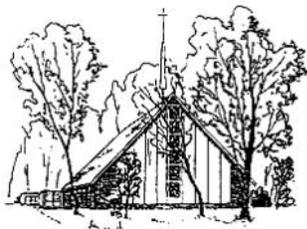
30 Pray for the witness of the nine young people serving alongside the Lutheran Church of Australia as part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program; the Rev. Kim Crawford and Rev. Henry Martinez, YAGM country coordinators; and the Rev. Sara Bishop, ELCA missionary serving in parish ministry.

31 *Reformation Day* Remember the reforming work and teachings of Martin Luther, who sought to re-center the church, its theology and its practices in Scripture and the gospel. Pray that the church today will always discern how best to participate in God's work in the world, to share the gospel in changing contexts and to reform our church, its practices and its traditions in response to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit for the sake of mission.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 6**      **Pledge Sunday**  
**October 16**    **Sustainability Book Group, 7 pm**  
**October 20**    **CLC@ th Movies, 4 pm**  
**October 27**    **Reformation Sunday/ Chair Blessing**  
                         **Wonder and Wisdom, 5pm**

**The October Reporter deadline October 20, 2019**



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