



**February 2020**

A Publication of  
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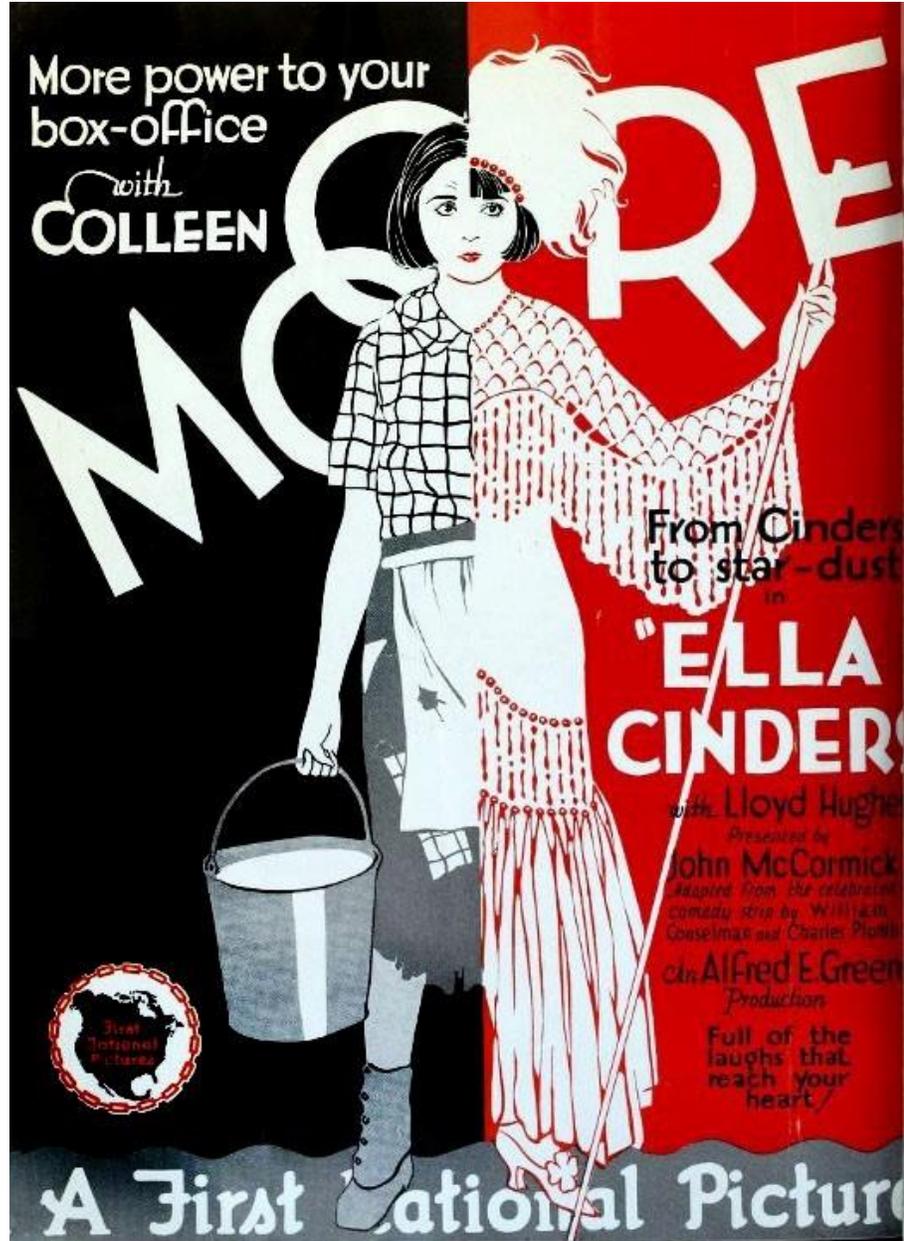
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Edie Lohr, Treasurer  
Dorothy Nail, Secretary  
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Laraine Marthinsen, Flowers  
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Janice Laakko, Visitation/Card

**Congregation Council:**

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David Pellauer (2020)  
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Amy Lousararian (2021)  
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David Ripp (2022)  
John Whitlock (2022)

# Christ Lutheran Church REPORTER



Our seventh annual evening with pianist extraordinaire Rob Humphreville features the famous 1926 film *ELLA CINDERS* on Saturday, February 22 at 7 pm. Alfred Green's movie re-tells the Cinderella story complete with lovely Ella and her wicked step-mother and step-sisters. Mark your calendars and invite friends and family.



## Pastor's Page

If you enjoy “The Moth Radio Hour,” or “Stories from the Stage,” listening to audio books, or sitting around the dinner table with multiple generations of family and friends, then you know how powerful oral storytelling can be, especially when folks share from their own lives.

The border immersion in El Paso, TX and Juárez, Mexico in which Rolf Larson and I, along with a dozen other New England Lutherans, participated, was largely a week of hearing such compelling narratives—first-hand experiences of an immigration judge, an immigration attorney, a pair of Customs and Border Enforcement officers, several community leaders, various persons working directly with migrants, and, especially, numerous migrants whose stories were different in the particulars, but common in a yearning to provide for their families, contribute to their communities, and live free of exploitation and fear.

While it is not possible for everyone from Christ Lutheran Church to travel to our southern border for such a week-long experience, we will, together with Pra. Rose Mary Sánchez-Guzmán, bring a taste of it to Natick in a mini-immersion on Saturday, February 22, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Come and hear stories—of grinding poverty and insistent hope, of impossibly steep challenges to legal immigration, and of living in the shadows of arrest and detention amid a resilient and hope-filled community. We’ll hear from Pastora Rose Mary, a local immigration attorney, and a recent immigrant to this area. The afternoon will close with a shared meal.

There will be no charge for the event, but a freewill offering will be received. Plan to come, and invite others to hear the stories.

Peace in Christ,

Pr. Rebecca Bourret



### **Ash Wednesday is February 26**

Join your siblings in Christ, beginning a holy Lent, worshipping either at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. Both services will include an extended Confession of Sins and Holy Communion.

### **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.

# MUSIC NOTES

## TOM BERRYMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

### **National Conference on Sacred Music**

During the first week in January, I attended an outstanding conference in Charleston, SC featuring David and Susan Palo Cherwien (Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis), Tom Trenney (First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln NE) and pianist/composer Mark Hayes. The sessions were held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, a beautiful church in the heart of Charleston:

<https://www.smlccharleston.org/>

Poet and hymnwriter, Susan Palo Cherwien focused on words and, specifically, the qualities of poetry for hymns:

- is it true?
- is it excellent?
- is it beautiful?
- is it appropriate?
- does it give God glory?

The ELW includes these hymns by Susan: O Blessed Spring (447), Rise, O church (548), Day of Arising (374), In Deepest Night (699).

It was a truly refreshing to be a part of the Conference and I'll offer observations about other sessions, concerts and services I attended in future Reporter issues. I'm grateful for the support that Christ Lutheran provided to offset my expenses.

**Please note two outstanding musical events coming in February.**

**St. Olaf Choir at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 pm.** Don't miss hearing the premier Lutheran college choir (and one of the finest a cappella choirs in the country) when they are in our area next month! <https://wp.stolaf.edu/calendar/event/st-olaf-choir-tour-worcester-ma/>

Tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-olaf-choir-tickets-68477061735> .

Listen to the St. Olaf Choir conductor, Anton Armstrong, speak about the Choir and their upcoming tour at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9W84CtNFQ4> .



**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.

Janice's email address is [jlaakko2585@verizon.net](mailto:jlaakko2585@verizon.net).



## BUS BLESSING!

With deep and heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the purchase of the minibus for Cristo Rey, we now invite you to participate in a bus blessing on Sunday, February 23, following morning worship (beginning at about 11:15 a.m.). After prayers for the bus and, especially, the communities it will serve, we'll celebrate with a brunch in the parish hall.

Let this also serve as "last call" for items to fill the bus—any quilts you're working on, as well as new or gently-used, sturdy shoes in youth sizes, and men's sizes to 9/9 and women's sizes to 7/8.

Please sign up in the narthex if you're able to:

- Provide an egg casserole for the brunch
- Help serve
- Help clean up!



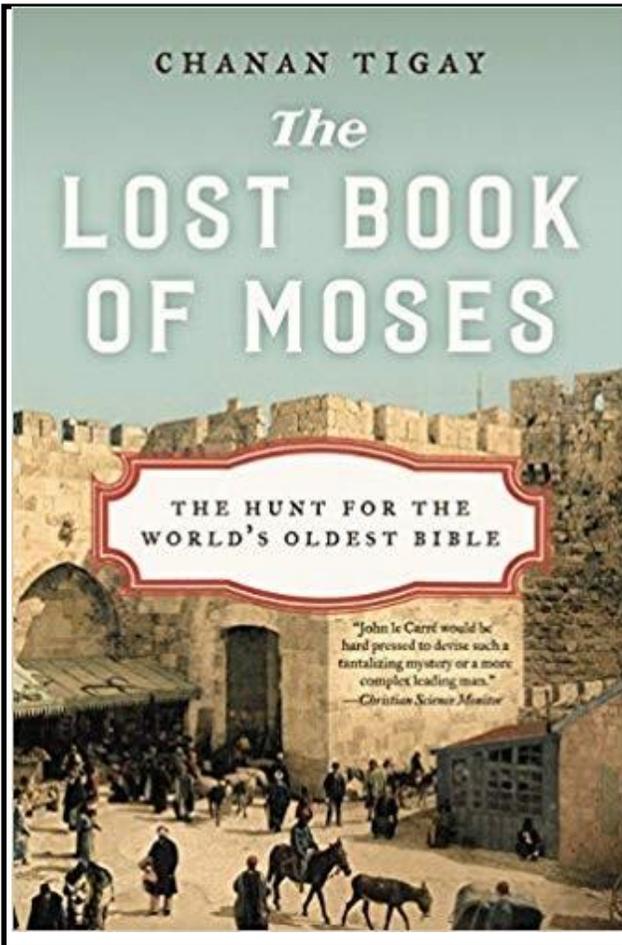
## Adult Forum for February

*There will be no forum on February 2, when Pr. Bourret and many of the forum regulars will be retreating at Calumet.*

February 9      Mission-Driven Art, part 1: What's the purpose of art and of making art within a faith community?

February 16      Mission-Driven Art, part 2

February 23      Pastora Rose Mary Sánchez-Guzmán speaks about the work of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in El Paso.



**CLC BOOK GROUP**  
**February 17, 7:30 PM**

*The Lost Book of Moses: The Hunt for the World's Oldest Bible* unfolds like a detective story as Chanan Tigay recounts the story of Moses Wilhelm Shapira who in 1883 arrived in London with a Bible scroll he said he had found in a cave in an area east of the Dead Sea. At first acclaimed, then discredited for his discovery, Shapira committed suicide and the scroll disappeared. 70 years later the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in a location similar to the one Shapira described. Journalist Chanan Tigay sets out to find the missing scroll and to determine whether Shapira was innocent of forgery--a fascinating read!

**PLEASE NOTE: NO CLC@ the MOVIES THIS MONTH**

## ASSISTING LIST FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Assistant
February 2	Presentation of Our Lord	10:00 a.m.	Beverly Fabriciu Edie Lohr	Liana Chan	John Whitlock	Cathy Gallagher	Robin Hurst
February 9	5th Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 a.m.	Patricial Bianco Nadia Salerno	Isaac Ripp	Russell Pollard	Amy Lousararian	Patricia Bianco
February 16	6th Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 a.m.	Pamela Bathen Sandy Smith	Kirsten Kirleis	Carol Virshbo	David Ripp	Robin Hurst
February 23	Transfiguration	10:00 a.m.	Lisa Eck David Ripp	Fiona Ripp	Phil Roberts	Mary Pollard	Lisa Chan
March 1	1st Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Amy Lousararia Edie Lohr	Peter Miller	Pamela Witcher	Alan Avalos	Carol Virshbo

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Coffee Hosts	Altar Guild	Tellers	Cantors
February 2	Presentation of Our Lord	10:00 a.m.	Cathy Gallagher	Ellen Zagajeski Judy Precious	Ross Petot John Whitlock	Hilding Hedberg
February 9	5th Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 a.m.	Ruth and Audrey Colson Sandra Smith	Pamela Witcher Dorothy Nail	Amy Lousararian Audrey Colson	Hilding Hedberg
February 16	6th Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 a.m.	Patricia Bianco Laraine Marthinsen	Pamela Witcher Dorothy Nail	George Hall Frank Miller	Kim Petot
February 23	Transfiguration	10:00 a.m.	Ellen Zagajeski Russ and Mary Pollard	Mary Avalos Joyce Simon	Hilding Hedberg Marianne Swenson	Celeste Larson
March 1	1st Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Deb Bianco	Liana Chan, Patricia B Cathy Gallagher	John Whitlock Alan Avalos	Scott Carlson



- 1** *Black History Month* Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African descent neighbors and siblings in Christ — we stand together to glorify God as partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world together. Though we are unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church as it recommits to the work of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and ending racism.
- 2** Pray that God will soften our hearts and focus our love on our neighbors in poverty and food insecurity, communities grieving for victims of violence, people in regions of conflict and war, refugees and immigrants, and people who are persecuted or disparaged.
- 3** Ask God to deepen our understanding of the peace that God desires for the world. Pray that the Spirit will inspire us to be bold peacemakers grounded in God's vision of peace, the gospel and love for our neighbor.
- 4** Pray that when we are embarrassed or hesitant to speak of the crucified and risen Christ, our faith in God's love and the gospel message will encourage and embolden us to be confident yet humble witnesses in the world.
- 5** We are scattered around the world as siblings in Christ, seeking and affirming our unity in the mystery of the Trinity and the good news of Jesus Christ. Explore the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, which enables us to journey in prayer throughout the world every week of the year, affirming our solidarity with Christians everywhere.
- 6** Pray for ELCA outdoor ministry leaders who are seeking young adults to serve in summer programs across the country. Ask that the Spirit be at work in young adults and move them to respond to God's call to serve and share their faith, skills, gifts and enthusiasm with children, youth and adults.
- 7** Pray that our hearts will be open to doing what God asks of us: to hold to what is good, to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.
- 8** Give thanks for pastors and seminary students who respond to God's call to serve as federal chaplains, ministering to inmates and staff at federal prisons and to staff, patients and their family members at Veterans Affairs medical centers.
- 9** As children of God, we are the salt of the earth and light of the world, bearing witness to God's love and mercy. Pray that we will understand how our good works, words and faith — even when unseen or unappreciated in our lifetime — can have profound, far-reaching impact.
- 10** ELCA Young Adult Ministry offers inspiration, opportunities and resources to young people aged 18 to 30. Pray for church-wide staff and leaders across the church as they work with young adults to form faith, discover identity and gifts, discern vocation and develop servant leadership.
- 11** Pray for church leaders as they gather for the Ignite the Church Conference in Orlando, Fla., an annual event that fosters conversation among leaders and inspires the church to live out its tradition of renewal.
- 12** Give praise and thanks to God for being our light and strength throughout our baptismal journey of following God's ways; for being generous, merciful and compassionate; and for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.
- 13** The light and warmth of God's love is welcome nourishment for our faith and spirit. Pray that God's love will move us to provide both spiritual and physical light, warmth and shelter for people who long for hope and relief during these dark, cold days of winter.
- 14** Amid our worries and turmoil, we ask for God's help in seeking freedom for the oppressed, sharing our food resources with the hungry, sheltering the homeless and attending to the cries of people in poverty.
- 15** Pray that we will take to heart Jesus' teachings that love is not weakness and that power does not equal force or superiority. Pray that we will follow Jesus' example by being humble, loving servants in the world and will trust in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us and through us.

**16** Trusting in God’s grace and forgiveness, pray that we will be repentant and humble when we consider our daily actions, words and thoughts, as well as what we fail to do. Ask God to redirect our lives so we might follow God’s ways and commandments, resist comparing ourselves to others and avoid citing cultural norms to rationalize contrary behavior.

**17** Pray for our president, legislators and other public servants, that their decisions and actions will be guided by a spirit of compassion and justice, a commitment to peacemaking and building relationships globally, and a determination to work across ideologies and political divisions for the well-being of our communities and of people in need.

**18** Give thanks for ELCA Global Mission programs, relationships, opportunities and partnerships with global companions that bring us together as the body of Christ for doing God’s work in the world.

**19** Give thanks for the happiness we experience when we walk in the ways and wisdom of God.

**20** Stewardship is more than annual pledge cards, balanced budgets and financial responses to God’s love — it’s a way of life. Pray that we will recognize and give thanks for the breadth of resources and assets — time, talents, possessions and money — God has entrusted to our care as individuals, families and congregations, and that we will discover ways of using everything we have to live out God’s call to love God and our neighbors.

**21** We are “God’s servants, working together” for the sake of the world, sharing the gospel and growing the church. Pray that we will be of one mind and spirit as God’s humble servants, and that we will see accomplishments, growth and change as the result of God’s presence and power working through us.

**22** Continue to pray for immigrants and refugees, who often experience daunting challenges and loneliness as they pursue sanctuary and a welcoming place to rebuild their lives in this country. Give thanks for the work of congregations, synods, individuals and agencies in welcoming and accompanying immigrants and refugees as part of the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

**23** Pray that the Spirit will sustain our awe, gratitude and reverence for our savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our true source of hope and life.

**24** Remember in prayer the thousands of people left homeless after Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas this past September. Pray for the long-term relief and recovery of people impacted, and for the extensive rebuilding of their communities and infrastructures by Lutheran Disaster Response in partnership with the Florida-Bahamas Synod, its congregations, and other agencies.

**25** Give thanks for the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and for women who have responded to God’s call in a variety of roles and settings in the church and world, proclaiming the gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership.

**26** Pray that we will always be attentive to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the world and that we will be moved by the Holy Spirit to be bright, shining witnesses, bearing the hope and promises of God.

**27** God is great and awesome, forgiving and a lover of justice. Give glory and praise to God!

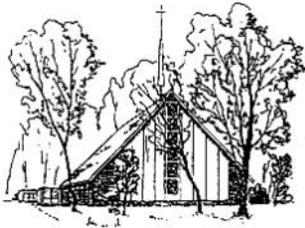
**28** Creation, humanity and nature are knitted together intricately by our Creator in ways that sustain all life and enable the earth to thrive. Pray that we will repent for what we have done to harm or unbalance creation, and that God will grant us wisdom and insight for restoring creation and treating it with care and respect.

**29** Give thanks for ELCA missionaries and young people serving in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission programs in Egypt, Israel, Jerusalem/West Bank and Palestine. Pray that God will bless and further their work with our companions in the Middle East and North Africa, especially in finding nonviolent paths to peace and justice.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Jan. 31 - Feb. 2</b>	<b>Congregational Retreat to Camp Calumet</b>
<b>February 5</b>	<b>Green Reads Book Group, 7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>February 9</b>	<b>Semi Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>February 17</b>	<b>CLC Book Group, 7:30 PM</b>
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Mini Immersion, Fellowship Hall, 2 - 6 p.m.</b> <b>Silent Movie Night, 7 pm</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Brunch/Blessing of the Bus, 11:30 a.m.</b> <b>Family Promise Host Week Begins, through March 1</b>
<b>February 26</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>

**The March Reporter deadline is February 20, 2020**



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