



# Christ Lutheran Church REPORTER

## March 2020

A Publication of  
Christ Lutheran Church  
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### Leaders of the Congregation:

George Hall, President  
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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)

## Lent, Holy Week and Easter Christ Lutheran Church

February 26, 2020, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm, Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 16:15 – 7:15 (including self-serve soup):

Mid-Week Prayer Around the Cross: Contemplative Worship with  
Scripture, Song, Silence, and Prayer

Sunday, April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday



Procession with Palms, Passion According to Matthew,  
and Holy Communion

Thursday – Saturday, April 9-11, The Great Three Days

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 Maundy Thursday:

Absolution, Foot Washing, Holy Communion, and Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 10, 7:30 pm, Good Friday:

St. John Passion Reading and Adoration of the Cross

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 pm, The Great Vigil of Easter:

Lighting the New Fire, Readings under the Tent,  
Affirmation of Baptism, and Holy Communion

Sunday, April 12, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m., Easter Morning:

Jazz Holy Communion and Festival Holy Communion

10:00 am: Easter Egg Hunt





## Pastor's Page

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My father was five and his brother eight when they were baptized in the parlor of their home in Cranston, Rhode Island. It had taken my Swedish Lutheran grandmother and lapsed Roman Catholic grandfather that long to agree on it, so my father and uncle were old enough to form memories of their baptisms. Many of us, baptized as infants, are not. We do, however, form impressions of the baptisms that we witness, whether of toddlers or teens, infants or eighty-year-olds.

Fundamental to Lutheran teaching about this central sacrament (one of two for us, Baptism and Holy Communion) is that, in it, God speaks to us by water and the word—and by “speak” we do not mean merely that God utters words, making a speech or making conversation, but word-action—words that effect change, words that create a new reality. In the words of the hymn, *“Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at thy speaking it was done... Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with thine own holiness...”* (ELW # 511)

If that is difficult (impossible?) to comprehend, that’s quite all right; it is divine mystery, apprehended not by reason or understanding, but claimed by faith. What that means, too, is that everything that surrounds the water and word of Holy Baptism may either amplify or deaden the sanctifying word God speaks.

Let me return to my father’s baptism. Everything that is necessary for a valid baptism was present: water, baptism in the triune Name of God, and the Church, represented by the pastor and tiny family gathering: check, check, check. Sometimes, such sacramental minimalism is required: a mother, a fragile newborn, a nurse, and a vial of sterile water and the word of promise spoken: Child of God, you are baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, so that the child’s parents hear the assurance of God’s claim on her, God’s promise of life for her, no matter how briefly she may breathe. Or an adult, never having obtained those same promises and now facing imminent death, needs to know that he belongs to God.

But when we in the church have the joy of receiving into the Christian community a new sibling in Christ, we are obliged to do all that we can to communicate, by way of symbol and action, what we confess God is enacting: that this child of God is cleansed from sin, dies to self-centeredness, and is raised to new life in Christ, that she becomes a member with us of the Body of Christ, a disciple of Jesus Christ, that he is clothed in the righteousness of Christ and anointed with the Holy Spirit.



Over the next five weeks, during the Lenten journey when we are called to remember and affirm our baptism, I invite you to explore Holy Baptism more deeply than you perhaps have since confirmation class (or ever), as the adult forum studies this sacrament and its significance, using as our resource *The Use of the Means of Grace*, Part two, "Holy Baptism and the Christian Assembly," an ELCA teaching publication.

We'll look at our own experiences and traditions, and consider how practices at CLC might more fully communicate all that Holy Baptism is and does. Join us in the Memorial Room Sundays in March at 9:00.

**Peace in Christ.**

**Pr. Rebecca Bourret**

## Coronavirus Response

News of the spread of COVID-19, a Coronavirus, has dominated the news in the past week or two. As it is a new virus, much about it is as yet unknown, and knowledge and recommendations are based largely on similar viruses, about which more is known.

As cases of COVID-19 begin to spread in the US, and understanding develops, it is wise to exercise precautions, while avoiding alarmism. Common-sense practices are the best defense: wash hands frequently, using soap and warm water, rubbing vigorously for at least 20 seconds; cover coughs and sneeze into an elbow; and if you are sick and experiencing respiratory symptoms, stay home.



At CLC, we will provide ample bottles of hand sanitizer in the narthex, and, during the month of March (as we monitor the course of the virus and its spread, and pay attention to experts' recommendations), we will offer Communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the chalice) and individual glasses.

**Over the next few weeks we'll watch and listen and decide whether to continue to modify our Communion practice. Thank you for your understanding.**

## Adult Forum for March:

During the month of March the adult forum will be studying Section 2 of the ELCA statement on sacramental practices, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, on “Baptism and the Assembly.” Participants are encouraged to download the document, both for use during this series and personal study:



[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The Use Of The Means Of Grace.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The%20Use%20Of%20The%20Means%20Of%20Grace.pdf)

### Each Sunday we'll explore several principles in depth:

**March 1** Principle 14, “What is Baptism?” Principle 15, “Jesus Christ Has Given Holy Baptism,” Principle 16, “Baptism is Once for All,” Principle 17, Baptism Involves Daily Dying and Rising

**March 8** Principle 19, “Baptism Includes Catechesis,” Principle 20, “Sponsors Assist Those Being Baptized,” Principle 21, “Baptism Takes Place in the Assembly”

**March 15** Principle 23, “Baptism May Occur Before an Imminent Death,” Principle 24, “We Baptize in the Name of the Triune God,” Principle 25, “Baptism is a Public Sign”

**March 22** Principle 26, “Water is Used Generously,” Principle 27, “A Font is Located in the Assembly,” Principle 28, “Other Signs Proclaim the Meaning of Baptism”

**March 29** Principle 29, “Baptism Incorporates into the Church,” Principle 30, Baptism is Repeatedly Affirmed”

### 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.



### 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)

# MUSIC NOTES

March is a month filled with Lent! For church musicians it's a season of wonderful musical choices to be made: familiar and new. Some highlights from my choices include new choral music by composer David Cherwien (Director of the National Lutheran Choir), Alice Parker's wonderful Psalm settings by 17th century composer Heinrich Schütz, Bach's opening chorus from the cantata "Was Gott tut das ist Wohlgetan," and some edgy organ music by Olivier Messiaen. "Of the Land and Seasons" on March 15 includes some beautiful hymns from the Southern Harmony tradition appropriate for Lent. On March 29 we will be offering a musical commentary on the Stations of the Cross, featuring instrumental, vocal and choral music.

**Come and hear some CLC singers in concert during March. Support live music!**

**Brothers, Sing On!** The Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus (Tom Berryman, Hilding Hedberg) Sunday, March 8 4 pm Wellesley High School featuring The Harvard Glee Club, Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus/Handel & Haydn Young Men's Chorus/Wellesley High School Men's Chorus <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brothers-sing-on-festival-hosted-by-the-boston-saengerfest-mens-chorus-tickets-88660318399?ref=wpwidget>

**Anthracite Fields** Chorus Pro Musica (Kim Petot, Mary Wolf) Saturday, March 14, 8 pm at Berklee Performance Center.

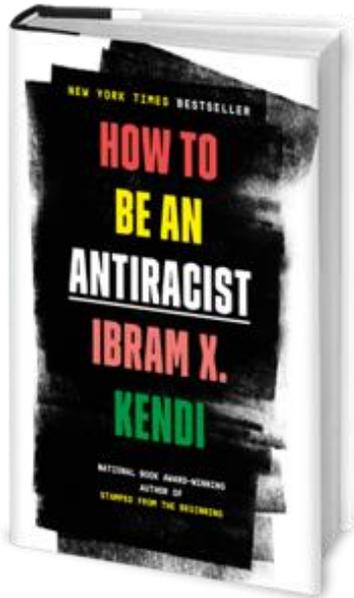
**Our Transcendental Passion** Boston Cecilia (John Whitlock) Sunday, March 29 3 pm All Saints Parish, Brookline <http://www.bostoncecilia.org/winter-concert-2020>

One more without CLC singers, well worth hearing:

**Morehouse College Glee Club**, Friday, March 13 7 pm at Old South Church, Boston One the foremost historically black college glee clubs in the US. They sang to a sell out crowd in Natick last year. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gbmcaa-and-the-tjx-companies-inc-present-morehouse-college-glee-club-concert-tickets-89083514189>

Tom Berryman  
Music Director





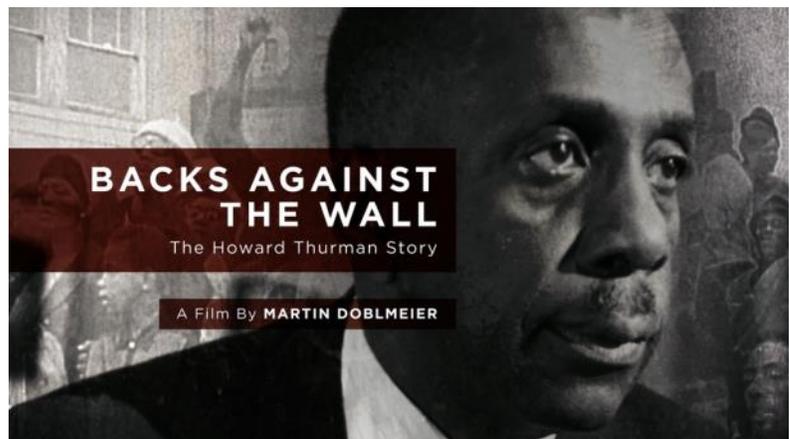
**CLC Book Group**  
**Monday, March 16, 7:30 pm**

In his memoir, *How to be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi asks the reader to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. Looking at racism as a kind of “metastatic cancer” in the body politic, Kendi traces racist ideas as he himself experiences advanced-stage cancer. The book is instructional, an honest, serious description of one man’s struggle to confront his own racism.

**CLC@theMovies**

**Sunday, March 15, 4 pm**

Born the grandson of slaves, Thurman became a “spiritual foundation” for the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring many of its leaders including Martin Luther King, Jr, Jesse Jackson and Congressman John Lewis.



In the mid-1930s, Thurman was the first Black American invited to meet Mohandas Gandhi who shared his strategy of non-violent resistance. When Thurman returned to America, his writings and speeches planted the early seeds for the non-violent Civil Rights Movement.

Thurman served as dean of Boston University’s Marsh Chapel from 1953-1965. He was a gifted and prolific writer who authored more than 20 books and was celebrated as one of the great preachers of his era.

A potluck dinner follows the movie. Think mac and cheese, barbecue, cornbread, and other side dishes. No time to cook? Come anyway.

**SWING AND SMILE WITH**



THE  
**BEANTOWN BUCKAROOS**

beantownbuckaroos.com

**Proceeds from the Dance Support  
Families Seeking Asylum**

7 to 9 pm Saturday, March 21

**2 Step Dance Lessons at 6:30pm!**

First Church Natick  
2 E. Central Street, Natick, MA

Admission: \$20 at the door

Silent Auction

Food and beverages for sale

For information about the dance or  
how to make a donation, email:  
asylumfamilysolidarity@gmail.com



**SIGN UP SUNDAY For Family Promise Metrowest's 11th Annual Walk to End Homelessness - March 15, 2020**

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) would not exist without the support of Christ Lutheran Church. We are one of 50 regional congregations that host or support FPM families, providing the foundation of the work the organization does. If you are concerned about the issue of family homelessness and want to make a difference, please participate in this year's walkathon. **On Sunday, March 15, we will have a computer set up during coffee hour to make it easy for you to register. The walk takes place on April 5** at Natick High School, starting at 12:30 p.m. It will be a family-fun day, with lots of food, games, prizes and entertainment!



**ASSISTING LIST FOR MARCH 2020**

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Assistant
March 8	2d Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Marianne Swen Jerry Precious	Kirstin Kirleis	Russell Pollard	Edie Lohr	Audrey Colson
March 15	3d Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Robin Hurst Sandy Smith	Anna Carlson	Cathy Gallagher	David Ripp	Patricia Bianco
March 22	4th Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Nadia Salerno George Hall	Isaac Ripp	John Whitlock	Martha Cronin	Joyce Simon
March 29	5th Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Deb Bianco Patricia Bianco	Liana Chan	Marianne Swenson	George Hall	Phil Roberts
April 5	Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Janet Thornquis Laraine Marthin	Fiona Ripp	Carol Virshbo	Multiple readers	Joyce Simon

Date	Liturgical Day or Setting	Time	Coffee Hosts	Altar Guild	Tellers	Cantors
March 8	2d Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Kathleen and Eric Kirleis Beverly Fabricius	Liana Chan, Patricia B Cathy Gallagher	Audrey Colson Neal Fitzpatrick	Pamela Witcher
March 15	3d Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Lisa Eck and David Ripp Joyce Simon	Hannela Saramo-Raja Amy Lousararian	John Whitlock Marianne Swenson	Jeff Kinney
March 22	4th Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Margit Smith Mary and Russell Pollard	Hannela Saramo-Raja Phil Roberts	Hilding Hedberg Ross Petot	Anna Carlson
March 29	5th Sunday in Lent	10:00 a.m.	Linda and Dennis Ortell Sandra Smith	Amy Lousararian Robin Hurst	Frank Miller Jerry Precious	Bob Weaver
April 5	Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Rolf and Celeste Larson	Phil Roberts Robin Hurst	Audrey Colson Alan Avalos	John Whitlock

# Christ Lutheran Calendar - Month of MARCH 2020

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

Christ Natick, Christian Holidays, Office Hours, Youth & Family							Mar 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 St. David's Day 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour 3pm - MISM Orientation	2	3	4 6:45pm - Midweek	5 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	6	7	8 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour	9 8pm - Resource	10 Midweek Lenten 6:45pm - Midweek	11 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	12 8:30am - Grace	13	14
15 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour 4pm - CLC @ the	16 7:30pm - CLC Book	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6:45pm - Midweek	19 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	20 Reporter Deadline	21	22 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour	23 7:30pm - Council	24 6:45pm - Midweek	25 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	26 Reporter Deadline	27	28
29 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour 5pm - Wonder and	30	31	1 6:45pm - Midweek	2 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	3	4	5 10am - Holy 11:15am - Coffee Hour 5pm - Wonder and	6 7:30pm - Council	7 6:45pm - Midweek	8 9:45am - Bible Study - 6:45pm - CLC Bell Choir 7:45pm - CLC Choir	9 Reporter Deadline	10	11



**1** *First Sunday in Lent* During the 40 days of Lent we recall how Jesus, the Son of God, withstood temptations even in a weakened state. Pray that we will find confidence and courage through faith in Jesus and will draw on the strength of God to endure the temptations and distractions of daily life.

**2** Give thanks for the contributions and impact of women of all ages and abilities who shape our society and communities, share their faith and wisdom, serve our neighbors in need and respond to God's call to serve as lay and rostered leaders in our congregations and church.

**3** Give thanks for the witness and work of the Rev. Lancelot Themba Mkhabela and Kwena Mkhabela, regional representatives for Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa; the Rev. Kirsten Laderach, YAGM country coordinator for Madagascar; and the seven volunteers serving alongside our companions in that country as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**4** Be glad and shout for joy! Trust in God's love and mercy, which strengthen and preserve us in our every need and circumstance.

**5** Pray that during Lent we will carve out time in our busy lives to pause and reflect on our faith, our baptismal journeys and the life and suffering of Christ, who sacrificed himself for us that we might enjoy a new life, reconciled to God and full of love, mercy, hope and a spirit of service.

**6** Give thanks for the gift of grace we have in Jesus Christ, which sets us free to live our faith with boldness and to serve our neighbor.

**7** Pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the world wherever there is conflict or war, especially in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and parts of Africa. Ask that the Spirit of God will guide and inspire political leaders, diplomats and mediators, soldiers and peace-keeping forces to be persistent and unified in seeking peaceful, just and compassionate solutions and treaties.

**8** Talk with God. Ask your questions even though some feel deep and perplexing, and trust that God will listen and respond as a loving, concerned parent.

**9** Thank God for our special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its diverse ministries and its members and leaders; and pray that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**10** Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) and Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) were born into slavery but emboldened by their convictions of justice, equality, faith and concern for others to fight against slavery and to advocate for women's rights. Ask God to grant us a similar boldness to live our faith and serve our neighbors who suffer injustice, poverty, oppression and hunger.

**11** Throughout Lent, remember and give thanks that God is our ready source of help, protection, strength and life.

**12** Ask for God's wisdom and creativity in developing our congregations as communities of faith where people discover a sense of belonging, feel grounded in the word of God and the sacraments, find opportunities for faith-centered learning and service, and know they are connected to the greater body of Christ.

**13** Praise God for the undeserved and unearned gifts of mercy and grace given to us and our ancestors of faith. Pray that the Spirit will fill us with the words, thoughts and images needed to tell others about God's promises and activity throughout history and especially today.

**14** Lift up prayers of concern and support for people and communities affected by the widespread destruction caused by wildfires in Australia. Pray for the thousands of people displaced from their homes, for volunteer firefighters and relief workers, for the healing of nature and for the response efforts of the Lutheran Church of Australia, local congregations and Lutheran Disaster Response.

**15** Pray that we will be inspired by the story of the Samaritan woman talking with Jesus at the well and will share with others — without bias or judgment — the good news of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world.

**16** Give thanks for the service and witness of the Rev. Zachary Courter and Rev. Rachel Eskesen, YAGM country coordinators for Hungary, and the eight volunteers serving alongside our companions in Hungary and Serbia as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

**17** As Moses and the Israelites called out in the wilderness for the reassurance of God's presence and attention, we, too, long for reminders and signs of God's activity, love and mercy in our daily lives. Pray that the Spirit will open our hearts and minds to God's presence and that we will be eager partners in God's work in the world — wherever it leads us.

**18** Pray for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one or a member of their community. Ask God to help us be present with them through our empathy, care, support and faith; ask the Holy Spirit to help us kindle comfort, hope and peace when the fragility and brevity of life feel overwhelming.

**19** Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry network and the Select Learning program, partner ministries that equip us for our baptismal vocations and create opportunities for lifelong learning, sharing multigenerational stories of faith and nurturing biblical and theological literacy.

**20** God is good and great and the creator of all that exists. Sing praises to the Lord and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**21** Praise God that we will be changed inside and out by God's love "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Pray that the love and reconciliation we have received from God through Jesus Christ will transform us to be passionate witnesses, disciples and bearers of the gospel for all who long for good news and hope.

**22** Give thanks that God equips us and uses our unique abilities and gifts to care for the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbor. Ask God to grant us courage, patience and confidence in the gospel when we experience resistance, anger or condemnation in response to our advocacy and acts of compassion and justice.

**23** Pray that our church's understanding of the theology and practice of accompaniment will deepen as we walk together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world.

**24** *Óscar Arnulfo Romero (1917-1980), bishop of El Salvador* Bishop Romero was assassinated for his courageous, gospel-driven work and his advocacy for human dignity, social justice and the rights of the poor and marginalized. Give thanks for his witness and impact and for those in the church and society who continue to fight for justice and the interests of people in Central America.

**25** In Jesus Christ we have a loving shepherd and a guiding light who walks with us in the dark moments and places of our lives. Give praise and thanks to God!

**26** Remember in prayer congregations and communities that are preparing for spring and summer storms and living with the uncertainty of what this year will bring. Pray that God will protect them, equip them to respond and calm their anxiety.

**27** Praise God for spring and its abundant signs of new life, which prompt us to remember the good things God has given us to tend, share and use.

**28** Pray that, as "children of light," we will grow in our understanding of what pleases God — lives full of light and shining with everything that is good, right and true.

**29** Ask God to help us trust that our actions, words, witness, relationships and service can and will accomplish wonderful and sometimes miraculous things in the world. Pray that, in all we do, we will act with humility so that our lives point not to our own abilities and accomplishments but to the power and love of God.

**30** Ask God's forgiveness for the times when, turning our attention to the breaking news of the day, we forget the masses of refugees in the world. Pray that, through our prayers, generosity, compassion and advocacy, we will be inseparably bound to those refugees who, displaced from their homes and communities, yearn to be welcome, respected, safe and settled.

**31** Remember in prayer those congregations, synods, leaders and churchwide staff preparing for synod assemblies this year. Pray that the Spirit will guide and inspire their plans for the sake of doing God's work in the world, spreading the good news of Christ and growing the church.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11	Mid-Week Lenten Gathering, (Wednesday), 6:15/6:45 p.m. *
March 15	Sign-up Sunday for the Walk to End Homelessness, 11:30 a.m. CLC@the Movies , 4 p.m.
March 16	CLC Book Group, 7:30 p.m.
March 18	Mid-Week Lenten Gathering, 6:15/6:45 p.m. *
March 25	Mid-Week Lenten Gathering, 6:15/6:45 p.m. *
March 29	Wonder and Wisdom, 5:00 p.m.
April 5	Passion/Palm Sunday

\* 6:15, Soup's on, Worship starts at 6:45

**The April Reporter deadline March 20, 2020**



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