

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14)

Grace and peace to you my sisters and brothers in Christ,

We just had our annual congregational meeting this past Sunday where we made important deliberations and decisions for the life and ministry of the church. Besides dealing with business part of the church, I always think of the annual meeting as an opportunity to celebrate God's works through our hands but also a time to reflect our past and assess our present and how we can move forward into the future. I might disagree what he said about forgetting what lies behind us altogether, we can use the wisdom of the past as we move forward to the future. But I agree that that we need to strain forward to what lies ahead; we just cannot dwell in the past.

During my report last Sunday, I shared an article written by T.J. Addington about the church's cycle. Several members have asked me to share his article in the Messenger this month. He said that 'every organization has a life cycle that includes initial growth and accomplishing its original vision. Once that vision is completed, the organization starts to plateau, and unless it can reenvision for the next ministry run, it goes into a long, slow decline. This plateau and decline are often not recognized because, like the frog in the kettle, it can be subtle, and the collective memory of the organization is its former glory days that members mistakenly think still define them'.

He listed 8 key signs or indicators that a church is on the downward slope of its life cycle;

1. There is no clear definition of who the church is or where it is going.

Lack of clarity is a sign that an organization is in significant jeopardy. A church that cannot clarify who it is and where it is going will simply wander without a missional agenda or clear purpose. By clarity, I am not referring to something defined in the bylaws that no one can remember but a compelling mission, clear guiding principles, a defined culture, and an understanding of what we are about every day. If staff cannot clearly articulate this and if the congregation does not understand it, there is not adequate clarity.

2. The church lacks internal alignment.

This is a natural result of a lack of clarity. Without clarity, different staff and ministries of the church simply do their own thing without any internal cohesion and often at cross purposes with other ministries. This allows individuals and staff to pursue their agenda rather than a common and aligned agenda of the church. Any time a ministry cannot answer the question: "How does this ministry contribute to the mission and goals of the church as a whole," it lacks alignment.

Cont on pg 2

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Lead Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

3. No one asks hard questions, or if they do, they are marginalized.

In healthy, vibrant organizations, challenging questions are welcomed because they help the organization stay on its mission. When one can no longer ask those hard questions without being marginalized, it is a sign that the organization is now in a preservation mode rather than a growth mode.

4. There is a steady leak of people out the back door.

People often leave a church when they sense there is no longer a compelling mission and vision. They usually go quietly, but when people who have previously been engaged leave and it becomes a trend, take notice.

5. The church guards its money.

Healthy churches tend to be generous, while those who have moved from missional to institutional tend to protect their resources, and a scarcity mentality sets in.

6. Meetings and bureaucracy replace action and outward-focused ministry.

In their growth phases, congregations are outward-focused, while in their plateaued or declining phases, they tend to be inward and self-focused. As this happens, congregations make it hard to start new outward-looking ministries.

7. The congregation and its leaders are comfortable.

Comfort means that change is resisted, the familiar is embraced, innovation is difficult and rare, and the focus becomes far more internal than external. This is an essential indicator because missional churches value ministry results over personal comfort, while the opposite is true when a church has plateaued or is on a downward slope

8. There is a collective memory of the congregation's "best days."

For people who have been around for a time, there is a memory of the period when the church was at its best and perhaps its most significant. What is interesting is that these same people often believe that this is who they still are. They need to recognize that the times have changed, ministry opportunities have changed, the neighborhood has often changed, and they need to change. In reality, they live in the past rather than the present or the future.

While organizational life cycles are predictable, one does not need to settle for a plateau or a downward slope. To change the game, however, leaders must re-envision the congregation for the next ministry season of the church. Church that remains vital and healthy will reverse those eight indicators by:

1. Have a clear vision and mission
2. Insist on the internal alignment of all ministries around that vision and mission.
3. Invite hard questions to challenge the way things are done and help the organization get better.
4. Close their back door and find out why people leave
5. Are generous with meeting needs outside the church
6. Are outward ministry-focused rather than internally focused
7. Intentionally live in the uncomfortable ministry zone rather than the comfort zone
8. Rather than live in the past, they honor the past but plan for the future

Most of all, the focus is always on the Gospel, a culture of love and grace, and a deep concern for the hurting and those who don't know Jesus.

I sensed at least some of those indicators, especially during and after the pandemic. For that reason I had been pushing the visioning process in our church. I am so pleased that council takes the leadership commit to our visioning process. Thought it is still in the process, but so far we have been able to identify and define our 'Guiding Principles' and Mission Statement or the Statements of Purpose.

Our Guiding Principles are:

- Listen and lead with purpose, following God's will.
- Grow and deepen faith in God.
- Live generously using God's gifts.
- Love and serve God and one another.
- Invite and welcome our neighbors.
- Maintain intentional communication.

And our statement of faith or statements of purpose: *“Walking with Christ, We love and serve our church and neighbors.”*

Last year, our council asked all committees in our church to submit their SMART(IE) goals including my own that would align with our Guiding Principles and Mission Statement. We are in the process of implementing them. By God’s grace, with our commitments to our common goals inspired by our guiding principles our church will thrive. We will be able to implement and live out our mission statement ‘Walking Together with Christ, we love and serve our church and neighbors’.

Serving Christ with you



Pr. Bimen Limbong

COUNCIL UPDATE

from Council President, Sarah Pryor

Thank you to all who gave their input on what we should **STOP-KEEP-START** doing at CLC. We are now working to compile the information and will be sharing the results soon, looking for your help in using this feedback to prioritize and inform our planning in the months ahead.

In the meantime, council challenged each committee to set at least 2 goals for the coming year and we’ve been sharing those goals with one another at the last couple of council meetings. A few of the goals shared so far are:

- ✦ **Worship:** Form/relaunch a Caring Ministry Team, to visit and bring Holy Communion to our homebound members. (Interested in joining this team? Let Pastor Bimen or Worship committee members know!)
- ✦ **Finance:** Provide training for council members on how to read the congregation’s financial statements.
- ✦ **Youth Ministry:** Research and implement a texting platform to easily send messages about youth events to targeted groups.
- ✦ **Communications:** Create a shared electronic calendar that members and committee members can view anytime online for better planning.

Several other projects are in the works, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2024!

Thank you to all who helped set up and organize our annual congregational meeting, as well as everyone who contributed to the potluck and participated in the meeting business. We welcome the 2024 Council that was installed and hope with your help we can continue to build positive momentum in our church life, focusing always on how to best live out our mission of *walking with Christ to love and serve our church and our neighbors.*

As always, I and my fellow council members ask for your feedback, suggestions, support, and most of all prayers, that we lead with wisdom and compassion, in all we do for Christ and Christ Lutheran Church.

FINANCE

General Fund Giving through December 2023

Online
Giving

Expected Receipts: \$402,001.00

Actual Receipts: \$386,953.00



Thanks to December counters Ron & Sharon Coombs and Mike & Kathy Kull.

Memorials were received in memory of Helen & Herb Buehl, Todd DeNardo, Martha Flynn, and Mary C. Metzner.

SCAN ME

MUSIC NOTES

This year the season of Epiphany is relatively short and ends on February 11 with the Transfiguration of Our Lord (which is celebrated by many churches on August 6 and not at the end of Epiphany as we do). During Lent we usually “forego” singing Alleluia/Hallelujah and the last hymn we plan to sing during Epiphany alludes to this. *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* (ELW 318) is an altered version of John Mason Neale's translation in *Medieval Hymns and Sequences* (1851) of an 11th century Latin hymn.

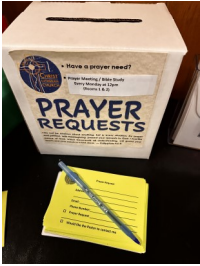
The **tune** *Praise, My Soul* (also called *Lauda Anima*) was composed in 1868 by John Goss for the text *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (ELW 865) - a Psalm 103 paraphrase. This tune has been praised as one of the finest of the Victorian hymn tunes – it is easy to sing and to remember and is well-liked by most congregations. John Goss followed his teacher Thomas Atwood as organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and taught harmony at the Royal Academy of Music for forty-seven years. Among other things, he also composed six services, a *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*, two *Te Deums* and forty-five anthems!

Note: Some of the above information comes from Paul Westermeyer's *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* published by Augsburg Fortress in 2010.

Ann Colbert Wade
Director of Music

ON-GOING CLC MINISTRIES

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please let us know how we can pray for you. Just call the church office, 267-5082, or email us at church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com and we will send out a prayer request. **We also have a Prayer Box in the Narthex...just fill out a prayer card and drop it in the box.** Christ Lutheran has some fierce prayer warriors always ready and willing to lift you up in prayer every Monday at our Weekly Prayer Meeting.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Our weekly prayer meetings will continue on Mondays at noon in Rooms 1 & 2. Individuals are invited to attend in person or online. Pastor Bimen leads this weekly worship opportunity. All are welcome.



Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88673354124?pwd=emlVSUdLeXVPNVVXYUhhJd3dDNlRkdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7335 4124

Passcode: 900074

ONGOING SOCIAL MINISTRY WORK

Please remember to place your gently used shoes in the WaterStep bin in the Narthex. This is an ongoing project to help Third World countries obtain water filtering equipment. Thank you for your donations that made this happen.



JAM Donations February

This month JAM is accepting donations of paper supplies: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, diapers sizes 4, 5, & 6, and baby wipes.

Please consider dropping off these items at our church for families in the Jeffersontown area. You may also drop off at JAM directly, but please call first to make sure they are open. Their number is 267-1055.

Communications at CLC



As we start a new year, here are a few best practices for maintaining good communications with one another.

- + **Not receiving church emails?** Contact Heather to make sure our database is up to date.
- + **Need to leave a note for Heather?** It's safer to put it in the office mailbox instead of on her desk, where papers can get inadvertently shuffled, moved around, and buried.
- + **Scheduling a meeting or event at church?** Don't forget to let Heather know so she can add it to our calendar. Copy church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com when scheduling meetings with your committee members, or fill out a **GREEN FORM** (located under the hall calendar) and drop it in the office mailbox. This will help Heather communicate upcoming events and know when to expect groups meeting in the building during the week. It will also help others avoid conflicts when scheduling additional meetings.
- + **Want to share information about your event?** Email **BOTH** Heather (church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com) **AND** Liz Walker (clcvolunteers9@gmail.com). Provide your Who/What/Where/When, any action needed, who to contact for questions, and photos/graphics to add interest. Our streaming announcement slides utilize green screen technology, so avoid using images that use green. And remember, the submission deadline for the Messenger is the 15th of the month prior. So if you have an April event for example, it's best to post an article in the March issue **at the latest**, which means you'll need to submit your article to Liz by February 15. Planning ahead helps everyone!

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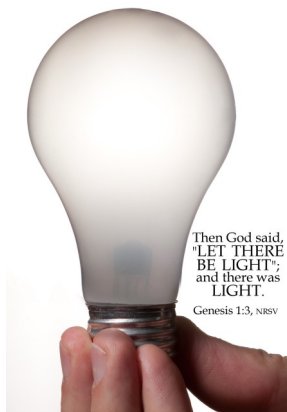
Communications at CLC continued

- + **Have a concern about building maintenance or repair?** Fill out a **BLUE FORM** (located under the hall calendar) and place it in the office mailbox.
- + **If a delivery or service/repair appointment is made,** be sure to let Heather know and share her contact information with the serviceman. This way she knows when to expect them, they can contact her when they're coming, and she can let them in building as needed.

LET THERE BE (LED) LIGHT

The property committee is changing the building's florescent lighting to LED bulbs as one of its projects this year. As of Jan 14th, the hallway lights by rooms 9, 10, 11, and 12, as well as some classroom lights have been changed by Dale Breitenstein and Mark Davis.

This conversion requires removing the ballast and rewiring the fixture. LED bulbs do not require a ballast, which is prone to fail and expensive to replace. LED bulbs are also more energy efficient than the florescent ones now used.



Then God said,
"LET THERE
BE LIGHT";
and there was
LIGHT.
Genesis 1:3, NRSV

BEFRIENDERS BEGINS AGAIN

BeFriends Ministry of CLC has been on hiatus since the Covid pandemic. It is time to bring it back! If you wish to join our BeFriender/Caring ministry whose primary focus is to love and care for our members through members visitation, serving communion and anointing, serving meals, sending care notes (cards), etc, **please join us at our first meeting on Monday, February 5 at 2pm.**

If you are interested but cannot attend the first meeting, you can still join us virtually. Please reach out to Pastor Bimen, 502-553-6025, so he can provide a link to join the meeting.

THIRSTY THIRD THURSDAYS

Thirsty for theology? Thirsty for connection and fellowship?...or just thirsty?

Whatever you thirst for, join us for one of our monthly gatherings, held **every 3rd Thursday of the month, starting around 6pm** (or whatever time you can make it). No sign up, just show up—the aim is to have an easy, fun way to connect with each other—men & women, young & old, married & single. While this is an adult fellowship group, we'll check out venues around town that are kid-friendly, so you don't have to get a babysitter. Stop in for a quick visit or stay for dinner. Pay on your own.

Join us on February 15th for our next THIRSTY THIRD THURSDAY!

GREAT FLOOD **Middletown**

12717 Shelbyville Rd
Louisville, KY 40243

<https://www.greatfloodbrewing.com/restaurant>

Brewery and restaurant founded by Middletown natives located in Eastgate Shopping Center on Shelbyville Road.



Questions or suggestions?

Contact Sarah Pryor

758-5108 or spryor@bellsouth.net



CARE PACKAGE EVENT



Spirit and GIFT Youth:

Please join us on Sunday, February 11th after the 11am service to assemble care packages for loved ones who are away at college, homebound, or otherwise miles away but close in our hearts. We want to remind them that Jesus loves them, and we do too!

Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to Sarah Pryor.
Call/text 502-758-5108 or email spryor@bellsouth.net.

If you'd like to support our project: Monetary donations would be appreciated to help cover cost of package contents and shipping (make checks payable to CLC and note for care packages). To donate items, please contact Sarah Pryor to coordinate. Thank you!!!

Let all that you do be done in love. ~ 1 Corinthians 16:14



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	
4 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11am Worship & Online 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 1:15pm Confirmation Class	5 12pm Prayer Mtg / Bible Study 2pm Befrienders Mtg 7pm Christian Ed Mtg	6 9:30am Tuesday Friends 10am Memorial Cmte Mtg 6:30pm Social Min Cmte Mtg 7pm Property Cmte Mtg Worship Cmte Mtg	7 9:30am 7pm Choc
11 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11am Worship & Online 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 12:15pm Pack Care Packages 2:00pm Forest Hills Worship Tackle Hunger Collection DEADLINE	12 12pm Prayer Mtg / Bible Study	13 9:30am Tuesday Friends 12pm WELCA Circle (lunch will be provided) 6pm Communications Mtg	14 Ash 9:30am V 12p-1p I Ashes In 7pm Ash 7:45pm C Valen
18 *1st Sunday in Lent* 8:30am Worship 9:45am LIFT Sunday School Class 11am Worship & Online 12:15pm Fellowship Hour 1:15pm Confirmation Class	19 12pm Prayer Mtg / Bible Study	20 9:30am Tuesday Friends 7pm Council Meeting	21 9:30 6pm Len 7pm Mic Worship 7:45pm C
25 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School Classes 11am Worship & Online 12:15pm Fellowship Hour	26 12pm Prayer Mtg / Bible Study	27 9:30am Tuesday Friends	28 9:30 6pm Len 7pm Mic Worship 7:45pm C



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 (Gym Rental 1p-5p)
Dam Wed Friends Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 (Gym Rental 9p-12p & 3p-6p)
<p>in Wednesday Dam Wed Friends Drive-thru Worship Choir Rehearsal St. Valentine's Day</p>  	<p>15 6pm Thirsty Third Thursday - Great Flood MESSSENGER Articles to Liz Walker Deadline</p>	16	17
Dam Wed Friends Lenten Supper Lenten Week Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 Adult Italian Night (Details: TBA)
Dam Wed Friends Lenten Supper Lenten Week Choir Rehearsal	29		



VISITS ANNETTE BISHOF



It was joyful to see our church's youth group, CREW, go and visit one of our beloved members, Annette Bishoff. Annette recently moved into an assisted living facility. So in addition to worshipping with Annette, our youth shared the Word with over 30 other residents of the nursing home.

UPCOMING *Events*

BeFrienders Ministry will have their first meeting on Monday, February 5 at 2pm. All interested individuals are invited to join.

The NFL will again sponsor "Tackling Hunger" in conjunction with Super Bowl on February 11.

The Social Ministry Committee is requesting food items or cash donations the last Sunday of January and the first two Sundays in February to support this project. All food and cash will be donated to JAM.



Sunday, February 18 during the Sunday School hour join us for our Calls for Families in Room 7.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Did you know...ALL women of the congregation are members of WELCA. This group meets the second Tuesday of the month for Bible study, lunch and fellowship. Please consider joining us, we would love to have you.

In January it was decided that some of our craft fair proceeds would be used to give Pastor Bimen gift cards to use at his discretion for those in need. WELCA has already given funds to two members of the congregation who are in need. We have also made a donation to Hildegard House for their work. Our 2023 special offering was used to purchase diapers for JAM.



Sunday, April 21 WELCA will host an afternoon tea for all women of Christ Lutheran. Reservations will be required. Be on the look out for more details in the coming months! This is such a wonderful event for ladies of ALL ages.

TUESDAY FRIENDS

Tuesday Friends spends many Tuesdays a year making quilts.

In 2023 Kathie Armstrong and Shirley Williamson made 38 large quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Do you ever wonder where they go? Christ Lutheran quilts went to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Honduras, Liberia, Tanzania, Turkey and the Ukraine last year...a whopping SEVEN COUNTRIES! Including the work of other churches, quilts were sent to fourteen countries around the world. The total from our ELCA churches was 194,983 quilts. That's a lot of quilts & a lot of warmth!

Shirley and Kathie also made about 60 smaller lap quilts for our homebound members and local nursing homes. Tuesday Friends is always in need of cotton prints to make the quilt tops.

**3rd THURSDAY GROUP, FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE,
& YOUTH MINISTRY**

**are teaming up in March for some all-ages,
family-friendly fun!**

Cure the winter blahs & **come bowl with the entire family!** Kingpin is a family-oriented bowling alley with arcade games & a cafe. We'll reserve lanes from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm

(And yes, we know that's the 2nd Thursday in March...)

Kingpin Lanes

9525 Taylorsville Rd, Jeffersontown, KY 40299
(Less than 1 mile from church)

Cost:

Standard cost is \$6.29/game to bowl or \$29/hour per lane, and \$5 for shoe rental + tax, but **we will be asking for RSVPs in the coming weeks to help us secure a group rate.**

Don't want to bowl?

Just come to hang out with friends and enjoy the fine Kingpin cuisine (pizza, burgers, sandwiches, fries, etc).

Questions/Suggestions? Contact:

Sarah Pryor 758-5108 or spryor@bellsouth.net

HATS, SCARVES & GLOVES...OH MY!!

Healing Place Donations Update

Once again our CLC members have shown Christ's Love for others. Our collection of hats, scarves & gloves was a huge success! The grand total we were able to donate to The Healing Place was 76 scarves, 76 hats and 144 pairs of gloves!



Thank you to Pam Ballinger and Sherri Bessett who used Thrivent grant funds to purchase a number of these items from Amazon. Thank you to EVERYONE who donated items. Christ Lutheran Church continues to walk with Christ to love and serve our neighbors!

Walking with Christ, we love and serve
our church & neighbors

Thank You! THANK YOU!

Dear Neighbor

December 27, 2023

JAM would like to thank you for your generous donation to our Christmas for Kids program. Whether you donated gift cards, sponsored a family or donated gifts, you were a big part of helping our neighbors have a great Christmas. We were able to see a lot of smiling faces this year because of your contribution.

Have a wonderful year!



Lisa Lewis
Christmas Director



Mailing Address: Post Office Box 99545 • Jeffersonstown, Kentucky 40269-9545
Jeffersonstown Community Center • 10617 Taylorsville Road • Jeffersonstown, Kentucky 40269 • 502-387-1055

Walking with Christ, we love and serve
our church & neighbors

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries
--------------------	------------------------

2/1	Kameron Garr	2/5	Alita & Tony White
2/3	Penny Dawson		
2/5	Chris Huber Emily Selch		
2/8	Samuel Limbong		
2/9	Lisa Williamson		
2/13	Chris Kull		
2/14	Randy Ferris		
2/15	Karen Koch Curt Sigdestad		
2/16	Shari Bessette		
2/18	Tammy Kissling		
2/19	Audrey Albin		
2/21	Ashley Ridgway Dave Williamson		
2/23	Larry Paul Whitney Stephens		
2/25	Ryan Bessette		

Don't forget to share your
 special dates with us!
 We would love to celebrate you!

MONTHLY MINISTRY ATTENDANCE

Sunday Worship Service

DATE	EARLY SERVICE	LATE SERVICE	ONLINE	TOTAL
1/7/24	22	73	0	95
1/14/24	17	34	0	51
1/21/24	30	47	0	77
1/28/24	N/S	70	17	87

Forest Hills Worship

DATE	RESIDENTS	CLC MEMBERS	TOTAL
01/14/2024			26

Monday Weekly Prayer Gathering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE
1/8/24	6	1
1/15/24	N/S	N/S
1/22/24	9	0
1/29/24	13	2

*N/S = No Service

PLEASE REMEMBER...

Please fill out the attendance cards that are handed out at each worship service. These cards capture important information that helps us keep our records up to date. Attendance is recorded every Sunday and this data is included in our Annual Report.



2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Bimen Limbong, 502-553-6025,

pastor_bimen@christlutheranlouisville.com

Pastor George Mercer, 502-507-5410 cell, 502-349-1835 home

Sarah Pryor, President, 502-758-5108, spryor@bellsouth.net

Steve Sarson, Vice Pres., 502-295-9418, ssarson@gmail.com

Roger Miller, Secretary, 502-415-4243, rrmlcm@yahoo.com

Alice Alvey, 502-435-0396, alicealvey96@gmail.com

Dale Breitenstein, 502-262-6168, dbreitenstein@allstate.com

Alex Casey, 502-356-8566, alexandrabarmore@yahoo.com

Randy Hesler, 502-939-2172, rlhesler@gmail.com

Mike Kull, 502-802-4485, mjk111048@aol.com

Nancy Walsh, 502-550-2306, nbwalsh1@bellsouth.net

CLC JOB OPENING

Job Title: Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Supervisor: Lead Pastor

FLSA Status: non-exempt, part-time, 30 hours per week

Christ Lutheran Church is seeking an enthusiastic servant leader to join our staff as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This part-time position will play a pivotal role, both as a leader and an example, in nurturing the faith development and spiritual growth of our youth and young adults, fostering a strong sense of community, and working collaboratively with other church leaders to support the overall mission and vision of the church.

Click here to view the detailed job description on church website.


To Apply: Interested candidates should submit a resume to church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com.



9212 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Sunday Worship
8:30am & 11am

Sunday School
preK—Adult 9:45am

20 Find us on  @

Christ Lutheran
Church
@CLCLouisville

Worship Times: Sundays at 8:30am & 11:00am.

Sunday School: Age 3—adults at 9:45am every Sunday.

Nursery : Infant to 6 years old in Room 3 during 8:30am & 11am services.