

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



APRIL 2020

9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“By the rivers of Babylon - there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?” (Psalm 137:1-4)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as we are still in the middle of this pandemic, this Psalm comes to life.

This Psalm is a song of Lamentation of God's people who were in exile in Babylon as they sat down on the bank of the river to find solace and comfort amidst the hardship of life they endured in the foreign land. It sounds as if they didn't weep so much because of the cruelty of their oppressors and the hardship they faced in Babylon, but of their remembrance of Zion (Jerusalem); the temple of their God, the palace of their king and the center of their national life that is now ruined and left desolate. Every time they remembered Zion, they couldn't help but shed their tears of great sorrow and sadness. But what they seem to miss the most was their worship life in the temple. I'm sure they tried to create a 'new way of worshipping' but they could not replace the worship in the temple. Desperately they hung their harps up on the willow trees for no good use. Being away from the temple was the same as being away from their own God.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.org

Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Interim Associate Pastor - Rev. Elisa Owen

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

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The writer of this Psalm comforted his people by inviting them to reminisce in their memories of the past in Zion, and yet to not dwell in them, rather put their trust in the Lord for their future and their return to Zion.

This pandemic in a way is like an exile that forces us to enter an unchartered territory or captivity, and requires us to figure out how to survive and thrive. In just two weeks our country seems to have gone through a panic mode as we are mandated to hunker down, practicing our social distance, the closures of the stores, schools, businesses and even the churches. After our thoughtful consideration and prayerful discernment we suspended our in-person worship in order to prevent this virus from spreading rapidly. I know we had to make a difficult decision for our health and the health of others.

Although we haven't experienced a pandemic like this before, it is similar to what happened in the Medieval era when the Black Plague swept through Europe, and claimed 75 to 200 million lives. During that time, Martin Luther wrote this: *"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person I shall go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."* (Luther's Works; Vol. 43, pg. 132). It is amazing how his wisdom is still relevant in our contemporary time.

All of a sudden we are compelled to figure out how to continue being a church in this new territory; making sure we provide care and ministry to our members and community in safe and meaningful ways. We thank God for modern technology. We have been providing online video streaming worship services for our midweek and Sunday service times through Facebook and Zoom. All our worship services are posted on our Facebook page and church website. We maintain communication with our members through our website, Facebook page, email and the telephone. Of course, all of these will not replace our in-person gathering for worship. We may hang our harps on the willow trees for a little while or refrain from doing or receiving what we used to during worship. However, we are not going to stay here forever. We have confidence in God's promise, that He will lead us from this exile through the wilderness into Zion. Meanwhile, we are called to pray for one another, be patient and support one another, especially the vulnerable ones.

Serving Christ with you,


Pr. Bimen Limbong

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through January 2019

Expected Receipts: \$ 74,327.00
Actual Receipts: \$ 103,807.00

This number is positive through February due to members who have contributed their complete 2020 pledge through their IRA QCD contributions. We thank these members for thinking of the church so early in the year.

These numbers are before the COVID -19 pandemic.

Christ Lutheran Church realizes each member is being affected in many ways, including financially, during this time. We want to stress that members should do what your situation allows. Some members have received the following information but it is being reprinted here for anyone who may have not received it. This information addresses methods for members to use to continue their contributions during this extraordinary time.

Contributing from your Checking Account

1. You can set Christ Lutheran Church as a payee on your checking account online with your banking institution. You may already do this with a payment to a department store or credit card. Your bank will mail a check to the church for your contribution when you request it online. On the “memo” line of the contribution check please designate where the funds should be applied, i.e. “general fund”, “capital campaign”, “world hunger”, etc. so it is credited properly. There is not a charge for this to the member (at most banks) or the church. It also allows a “paper trail” for the contribution within our counting system. Members have been making contributions to our church this way for several years. The church’s address is 9212 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299.
2. You may write a check as normal, put it in your offering envelope and mail it to the church.

If you have any questions, you may call Mike Kull at 502-802-4485. We will continue to make weekly deposits of all received contributions.

Please Note: We are also exploring the ability to contribute using a credit card. However, approximately 2.5% of every charge will be paid to the processor there by reducing your contribution.



Christ Lutheran Church Dear Ones:

This month I want to use my space to share with you the meditation below created by the Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson, Associate Director of the Lilly funded collaboration I am a part of, “Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose.” I found this incredibly helpful because of the context in which Paul’s letter was written. Philippians, in fact would be a great book for you to read all the way through during this era of coronavirus inspired social distancing. It is certainly my favorite of Paul’s letters. Not least because my brother and I were at the end of reading it to my grandfather at the moment he died in March 2001.

Remember that “lectio divina” is a method of reading scripture meditatively while noting what comes up for you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, as you do. I suggest you “google” the term if you are unfamiliar with it (many how to videos come up) or check out the following link <https://spiritualdirection.com/2012/04/21/what-is-lectio-divina-and-will-it-help-my-prayer-life-a-guide-to-lectio-divina>.

I’d love to hear how the passages Jane pulls out from Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi help you answer questions about your current calling. That is, what you/we are to do as wait for the coronavirus to pass? What words come up for you? Phrases? Whole thoughts about your/our calling? Feel free to email me about your experience with this but above all, enjoy Jane’s good work while you stay well!

Peace and love,
Elisa

Lectio on a Catena (a chain of scriptural quotations) from Philippians

This lectio is an offering during the time that many (but not all) of us are sheltered in our homes, awaiting the passing of the coronavirus. The sequence of passages was chosen for its relevance to our shared work on callings and for its reflection on the meaning of community when we are physically absent from community. Some questions it puts before us are:

- What is my calling now, as I work from home or work in a job that requires my presence even when others are able to stay at home?
- What loves are most important now?
- What risks and what carefulness are important now?
- What should I focus on now?

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The Situation

Paul is writing to the assembly in Philippi from prison, likely in Ephesus.

Ancient prisons were notoriously brutal places. Prisoners depended upon their social group to bring them the basic necessities: clothing, a blanket, food.

As an act of solidarity and love, the Philippians had sent Epaphroditus to care for Paul, and during the time he was carrying out his mission of mercy he nearly died. He has recovered now, but the community is well aware of the risk they took in sending him.

A recurring theme of the letter is Paul's rumination on his *presence* to the Philippians in prayer and concern during the time that he remains *physically absent* from them.

He wonders whether he will die in prison, never having had the chance to see them again, and not knowing whether they will be able to stay strong under persecution in their own context.

In response to the seriousness of the situation, Paul establishes the widest possible frame of reference for his thoughts: God's ultimate purposes for the whole creation, made manifest on the "day of Jesus Christ."

Some Themes in Philippians

Joy as a chosen posture of counter-cultural faithfulness in all circumstances.

Prayer as a substance of communion with God and those to whom one is connected in Christ.

Love as a channel for discernment.

The importance of **the body** as a site of Christ-shaped love in community, even while recognizing the body's fragility and ephemerality.

Partnership (*koinonia*) as a basic Christian practice that mirrors forth the body of Christ.

The Scripture from Philippians

I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your partnering in the gospel from the first day until now.
I am confident of this,
that the one who began a good work among you
will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (1:3-6).

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And this is my prayer:

that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight
to help you to discern what is best,
so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
having produced the harvest of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God (1:9-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus (2:5).

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way,

but that by my speaking with all boldness,
Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,
whether by life or by death (1:20).

Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
so that, whether I come and see you
or am absent and hear about you,
I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit,
striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,
and are in no way intimidated by your opponents (1:27-28).

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, my beloved,
just as you have always obeyed,
not only in my presence,
but much more now in my absence,
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work among you,
enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure (2:12-13).

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.

Do not worry,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (4:4-7).

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Finally, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
take account of these things (4:8).

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

After the Annual Congregation Meeting last month, the Council requested the Call Committee; Dale Breitenstein, Morgan Bowman, Karen Koch, Jenny Nixon, David Pfalzgraf, and Liz Walker; to initiate the call process for the Associate Pastor. Over the last several weeks, the Council and the Call Committee had a joint meeting with Pastor Heather Apel from the Synod to guide us through this process. Similar to calling Pastor Bimen, the Call Committee completed two documents called the Ministry Site Profile and Seven Reflections. These documents are about 20 pages. They describe our congregation, as well as the gifts and talents, we are seeking in an Associate Pastor. The Council approved these two documents on Feb 26 and they have been submitted to the Synod as of early March.

As candidates are available, the Synod will share the candidates with the Call Committee and the interviewing process will begin. During these next months, the candidates' names will be confidential until the Call Committee thinks they've found "the one" and then the interview process will continue with the Council. We ask that you pray for the candidates and our congregation during this time.

Additionally, on behalf of the Congregation, I would say we all appreciate Pastor Elisa's service and will continue to enjoy her talents and gifts until we find a permanent Associate Pastor.

VBS SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for our 2020 Vacation Bible School, Rocky Railway. We are tentatively scheduling our VBS for June 15– 19, 2020. The back up dates, if social distancing continues into June, will be either July 20-24, 2020 or July 27-31, 2020. We will send out an email once a date has been firmed up.

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	
	2	3	1 7pm Lenten C Service
5 10:00am Worship@Home Online Service	6	7	8
12 EASTER JAM Sunday Services TBA	13	14	15
19 10:00am Worship@Home Online Service	20	21	22
26 10:00am Worship@Home Online Service	27	28	29

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Online	2	3	4
	9 Maundy Thursday 7pm Maundy Thursday Online Service	10 Good Friday 7pm Good Friday Online Service	11 Easter Vigil JAM Saturday Please consider dropping donations off at JAM 5pm Easter Vigil Online Service
	16	17	18
	23	24	25
	30		

PROPERTY UPDATES

Drum roll please..... At long last the time has come....

On April 1 our church roof will begin to be replaced! Please keep the roofing company in your prayers for their safety as they work on our building, literally!!! Battle your cabin fever, drive by and check out the progress.

Some moments of beauty from our church



MUSIC NOTES

With so much to be sad/worried/upset about right now, I find it helpful to think about things to be grateful for. Here are just a few of mine: a loving God who is always with us; the incredible beauty of spring – the daffodils, pear trees and forsythia have been magnificent; all those people who make sacrifices on our behalf – national and local leaders, pastors, medical folks on the front lines, first responders, our military all over the world; technology (even though it drives me crazy) that keeps us connected; great music available at a couple of clicks; the zillions of people who DON'T get sick; friends and loved ones who check up on each other; a good mystery to read; our animal friends; etc. Make your own list – it will brighten your day!

A thank you to Hannah Gibson and Dale Breitenstein for their big contribution to our *Holden Evening Prayer Services* on March 4 and 11, respectively. This service is a favorite of many of you, and they both did a terrific job!

Now, go in peace and wash your hands....



HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Christ Lutheran Preschool needs your help. Please tell your friends, and anyone you meet about our OUTSTANDING, hands on approach to learning school.

We are currently taking registrations for the 2020-21 school year. We offer half day classes, 9-12pm, for 3 and 4 year old potty trained children. Registration forms and information about our curriculum, beliefs and history can be found at www.christlutheranpk.org.

Anyone interested in touring the school to see if the fit is right for their child or just to ask questions about the programs we offer may contact Keira Miller, Director at 502-267-5082 or by emailing clkindergarten@bellsouth.net.



WAY OF THE CROSS ONLINE

We are looking to create art for the "Way Of The Cross" stations to share online from CLC's Facebook page each day leading up to Easter. It is a way to Make Christ Known in our (hopefully temporary) new world online.

If you are interested in contributing an image, please reach out to Joe Pfalzgraf at averageamericanjoe@yahoo.com. We need 14 pieces of art within a week. Even if you can contribute just one image, we would love to share your work. Style is completely up to you- drawing, painting, computer art, photography, black & white or color- we will accept it all! The more variety, the better- simply scan or take a photo of your art and send it to Joe.

If there is a particular station of the cross you'd like to sign up for, let Joe know- or just say "assign whatever you need!" and Joe will send you the readings for your piece of art.

Questions? Contact Joe at averageamericanjoe@yahoo.com or at 502-445-9480.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Schedule PreK through 5th Grade

4/5/2020	Last Supper & Holy Week	John 1-20 & Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:56
4/12/2020	The Empty Tomb	Luke 24:1-12
4/19/2020	Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-35
4/26/2020	The Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-4, 36-42
5/3/2020	Early Believers	Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37
5/10/2020	Peter Heals	Acts 3:1-16
5/17/2020	Paul & Silas	Acts 16:16-40

Maybe take a moment each Sunday to read the above listed verses with your children/family. Ask each family member to share what they mean to them.



Matt Hoehner's Sunday School Class: (from left to right) Ethan Selch, Emily Selch, Nathan Ginnish, Molly Turpen, Ashby Hallum, Nora Turpen, Jaime Richardson, Kinsley Hoehner, Matt Hoehner.



THE CREW

Christians Ready Enabled Willing

Once again CREW hit the road and visited with "Skip" Tatum this month and shared a Lenten lesson; prior to all church activities being canceled.

In addition to CREW members Molly Pryor, Hannah Richardson, Emily Richardson, Katy Hoehner, Hannah Gibson and Hannah Limbong, we welcomed Jay Pryor and Anne & Filipe Hernandez; as well as several Good Samaritan residents too.

Song, scripture and sacrament were shared and we all received a blessing of hope, faith and love. These visits are a wonderful way for our high school Sunday School group to live and share their faith in a really meaningful way. Know someone we might visit? Would you like to join us one Sunday? Contact Kathleen Breitenstein at 494-1468 or kathleen2422@gmail.com. We will set up a visit after this time of social distancing is over.



Front Row: Filipe Hernandez, Anne Hernandez, Skip Tatum, Hannah Gibson. Back Row: Kathleen Breitenstein, Molly Pryor, Hannah Richardson, Jay Pryor, Emily Richardson, Katy Hoehner, Hannah

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

1:15-3pm

Month/Date	Topic: New Testament	Scripture
April		
26	Media and Materialism	Isaiah 55:1-3a
May		
3	Stewardship of Time	Mark 12:28-30
17	Stewardship of Talents	Matthew 5:3-10,13a,14, 16
31	Stewardship of Treasure	Malachi 3:10
June		
7	Confirmation	

GIFT Youth Update

South Central Conference Youth Update

U The Synod Mission trip is Saturday June 21 - Saturday June 27 at CLC and is for youth entering grades 8-12. This week is comprised of community service projects during the day and fun group activities in the evening. The cost is \$175 and is all inclusive. Some youth from CLC participated in this event last year and found it to be a really fun and meaningful experience.

At this time due to health concerns from COVID-19 all youth activities within the SCC have been suspended. When we are able to meet again, Tammy Kissling will send out update SCC Youth events, as well as CLC GIFT events.

NEED HELP, WANT TO HELP

During this time during "social distancing" we find ourselves wondering what we can do to help others. Even though we cannot be together physically, we are together spiritually. Now more than ever, take a moment and pray for a church family member, a friend, someone who you know is suffering.

Take a moment to send a card....our Card Ministry is a perfect example. If you have someone you would like to send a card to call the church office, we will assist you with addresses.

Are you finding yourself in need of help during this time of quarantine. Do you need groceries or your medications, but are afraid to go out because of health concerns? We ENCOURAGE you to call the church office. We will help you get the supplies you need. Pick up the phone and check in on one another. Now is the time to come together even though we are apart. Peace!



The Donna Scott Children's Library **is OPEN!!**

Come & Read!!

The Donna Scott Children's Library was dedicated on Youth Sunday, February 23rd. Led by Pastor Bimen, we gathered in the Solarium to bless the library while sharing fellowship and breakfast treats between worship services. We're thankful for the many hands who made this day possible—for the partnership between the Communications and Memorial committees, for Dale Breitenstein, who built the bookshelves and worked with Mark Davis to install everything, for Barb Morgan, who sewed the colorful bookbags, and for everyone who donated books and helped sticker them. We have approximately 500 books, and continue to add to our collection!

We also give thanks to God for Donna, who was a friend to many and for over 30 years taught and directed our Christ Lutheran preschool. If there was ever one among us who welcomed children here, it was Donna. With the installation of the Donna Scott Children's Library, we hope for years to come when parents and children walk into our church, they will clearly hear the message that Donna would say to them, "Children, you are welcome here."

"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18:5

Library Guidelines:

- Books & DVDs may be borrowed by anyone at any time, so feel free to carry a few home in one of our tote bags to enjoy.
- You are welcome to bring books into the Sanctuary during worship to keep little ones busy.
- Library items are borrowed on the honor system. Please return any items when you are finished so that others may enjoy them.

The library is stocked and maintained on a volunteer basis. Please contact the church office if you would like to donate time or books.



**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
pre-k - adult: 9:45 a.m.

Visit the



Christ Lutheran Church, Jeffersontown Kentucky
Facebook Page

Worship Times: Saturdays at 5:30pm, 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.