

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2020



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

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

I wish you all are doing well. As I think of all the things that are going on in our world today with the ongoing and increasing numbers of cases; all the controversies around pandemic, protests, political views, whether returning to school and returning to in-person worship just to name a few. It is so easy for us to get so polarized and divided and in some cases from one extreme to another. This pandemic indeed has caused lots of pains and problems in our country and our world.

In times like these, the words from the apostle Paul speak the volume; they remind us once again the power of God’s love for us that supersedes all the power and troubles in the world. Indeed, there is nothing in all creation that separates us from the love of God; not even this pandemic and all the ‘domino effect’ problems that it caused in our world today.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Interim Associate Pastor - Rev. Elisa Owen

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

God created us for relationships; a relationship with God and relationships with one another. That relationship makes us whole. We are indeed social creatures. This has been a challenge for us during this pandemic, because we have been separated from one another socially for months now, and it seems there is still a long way to go. This separation is against our nature and it creates great anxieties, loneliness and sometimes leads to frustration and anger. As a church we continue to encourage our people to reach out to each other and find creative ways to connect with them either through social media, phones, cards or meeting in person safely. But most of all, God is with us. His love is surrounding us.

We are unequivocally facing a great threat to our unity as a country, even as a community of faith, because of our inability to accept and respect our differences and embrace our diversity. The political chasm seems to be getting wider and wider and the controversies are mounting. At this time, I invite you to reflect once again on the verses above, *‘nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.’* God binds us with the strongest bond that nothing in the world and all creations can match; His love.

It is God’s vision and heart’s desire for our unity with him and with one another. God created us differently; therefore we think or reason differently. But let’s not allow our differences to divide us. Let’s put our differences aside and be united at the foot of the cross; our unity in Christ. Leaders will come and go but the community will remain. We are in this journey together. We need and depend on each other to survive and thrive, as John Donne said in his poem, *“No man is an island”* or the African’s proverb *‘Ubuntu’* which literally translated *‘I am because we are’*. Jesus also prayed for our unity in him and God the Father in his intercessory prayer saying, *“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* (John 17:20-21).

Finally, I would like conclude this letter with this Psalm (Psalm 133):

*How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.*

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 5: 6-9

The school year, whether it will take place in person or online in your case, is rapidly approaching. As such it is time for us here at Christ Lutheran Church to make some decision regarding what the 2020-21 Sunday School, Confirmation, and service/fellowship year will look like. Perhaps needless to say, planning for those things in a pandemic present some unusual challenges! Even so, we took several steps toward putting those plans in place this past Monday evening when parents and youth got online together to discuss how the youth and children's program here, which includes pastors, teachers, friends, and the young people themselves, can work to grow in faith and love and support of one another while making sure health and safety remains a priority.

Several things came out of that meeting that I want to share with families and their youth.

- First, **The Gathering** will not take place in July 2021 as previously announced. Instead, the ELCA has determined that it will take place in July 2022. This is good news for rising 7th graders and a bummer for rising seniors! We will have the most resilient youth in several generations with the way our kids are learning to adapt to the disappointments and surprises this pandemic introduces into daily living.
- For those who are in the middle of The Gathering eligibility range and remain interested in going, however, you need to know that we are NOT planning on waiting to begin our **fundraising/team building** efforts for the event. At a minimum, we will need \$14K to send the sized group that expressed interest in going to Minneapolis for the event in a late spring survey. In addition to the size of the group, we know we will have to be creative with fundraising in a time when we cannot gather inside in large groups, the usual fundraising venue. Those are just two of the good reasons we want to start right away.

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Another is that working toward common cause gives the youth both something to look forward to in the longer term, and things to plan and do together in the shorter.

- On **Saturday afternoon August 22**, as part of our **Back to School Splash** celebration we will hold a **drive through car wash**. Youth and their supporters will be out in the parking lot between 1 and 5PM that day ready to wash your car while you wait. You might want to wait in your car or in the building once you trust us with your car lest we involve you in the splash party! You will be asked to give a donation to The Gathering event for our “trouble.”
- Service will be the theme of this year’s **Back to School Splash** event, which will take place all day **August 22, 2020**. Youth are invited to sign up to staff the **Feed Louisville meal preparation** that day starting at 9:30 AM. In fact, we will be reserving the **third Saturday of each month** first for youth interested in seeing their friends while making a difference participating in our evangelism team’s project. If your young person would like to be part of each month’s Feed Louisville youth team get in touch with Pastor Elisa before the third Wednesday of that month or sign up you and your friends on the following link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fs0W8zre-9k1yLJFrDZM98mSfi4hauA-0WQWgp1wRok/edit?usp=sharing>
- The **Back to School Splash** event will also feature a chance to **picnic on the parking lot** and a **drive thru blessing of the backpacks** for students from K-12. Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket and some cool drinks, grab an extra meal the youth Feed Louisville team is going to prepare that day for those that sign up for the picnic, put your chairs or blankets down 6 feet from the church friend of your choice and enjoy safe fellowship eating together outside and apart spread about our grounds. If you are coming to the **parking lot picnic**, let Pastor Elisa know before **Tuesday, August 18** so we will know how many extra meals to prepare. The backpack blessing will take place immediately before the picnic at 12PM August 22. Stay tuned for more details to follow on this event.

Finally, a couple more announcements about the children and youth program here at church.

- Now that all her children have graduated from high school, **Marti Gibson** has hung up the angel’s wings she earned as **chair of our Christian Education committee** here at the church. As such, we are searching for a new chair of that team.

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We ask that you pray that God will show us, and the person being called, who he has in mind for this role. Weekly that person will download Sunday school curriculum for the children's Sunday school class and get it to the teacher/teachers. Other efforts will involve leading the discussions that result in a schedule of youth/children's events being developed in July for the upcoming school year, planning receptions for special occasions like confirmation, first communion and graduation, working with others to pull off the Christmas Sunday School program. If you suspect you are called to that role, get in touch with Pastor Elisa. She has a more complete description of that person's role.

- We are also looking for K-5 Children's Sunday school teacher/teachers for when we can gather in larger groups. In recent years that age group has all been members of one larger class. There is no experience needed to teach, just a love of kids and a passion for inviting them to know and follow Jesus is all. Rather than rely on one person to do it all where this group is concerned, I'd love to have 4-8 people who would be willing to teach 1 Sunday a month. That way the kids have a chance to get to know multiple adults who care about them for no other reason than that they are them. With several teachers no one has to dedicate themselves to staying after worship or coming before every week and we can share the load.
- Finally, we are working to come up with things that we can do to reach out to children of all ages and let them know they are loved. We also are interested in your ideas as to how the youth/children can be remain engaged in the process of spiritual formation and growth when we are not able to gather in groups as is the norm. If you have ideas about how we can reach out to your special young person do not hesitate to contact Pastor Elisa.

Peace and love to you all.

Pastor Elisa



FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through June 2020

Expected Receipts: \$ 230,318.00

Actual Receipts: \$ 227,418.00

Thank you to July counters: Dale Breitenstein, Kathy & Curt Sigdestad.

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings or had their bank mail a check directly. At the end of June 2019 Actual Receipts were \$242,997. We appreciate your continued support for our mission of Making Christ Known even during this extraordinary time.

A reminder, the church's address is 9212 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299.

Contributing from your Checking Account

1. You may now contribute online with a debit or credit card by using the Tithe.ly from your phone or computer. Details on page 7.
2. 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 GO TO PAGE 7 FOR
ONLINE GIVING INFORMATION******

ONLINE GIVING MADE EASY

Use the Tithe.ly App

We are thrilled to announce that Christ Lutheran Church now has the ability to accept offerings ONLINE! It is as simple as downloading an app and creating a personal account.



Here's how:

1. Go to the App Store on your smart phone
2. Search for and download the Tithe.ly App
3. Sign up and create a personal account - enter your name, email, create a password and 4 digit pin.
4. Search for Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in the "Find a church..." box - you MUST include Evangelical to find our church.
5. Click "Give Now" box
6. Enter ALL required information
7. Click "Give" box at the bottom.

If you do not have a smart phone or it's easier for you to work from a computer all you need to do is go to our church website and click on the green GIVE button. This button can be found at the bottom of the home page or in the sidebar on the NEWS page. It will open a link directly to Tithe.ly and you will be able to create a personal account and make your contribution.

You can set your gift up to be allocated to a specific area: Regular Offering, Capital Campaign, Memorial Fund or Endowment Fund. You also have the option to set up a recurring gift. The options for frequency of the gift include; Every Week, Every 2 Weeks, Every Month, 1st & 15th Monthly.

There are 3 payment options as well, along with the option to help the church by covering the fees associated with the transaction. For example a \$25 weekly offering has a fee of .87 cents per week. Your total contribution would be \$25.87 a week.

Any questions, contact Mike Kull, 502-802-4485 or the Church Office, 502-267-5082.



AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	
2 10:00am -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	3 7pm Re-Opening Task Force Zoom Mtg	4 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	5
9 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	10 7pm Finance Committee Zoom Mtg	11	12
16 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	17	18	19
23 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	24	25	26
30	31		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
6	7		8
13 7pm Council Zoom Mtg	14		15
20	21		22 Back to School Splash Celebration 9:30am Youth Feed Louisville 12pm Back to School Splash 1pm Youth Car Wash
27	28		29

TASK FORCE UPDATE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

After many weeks of planning and preparation, we re-opened the doors at Christ Lutheran for in-person worship during the month of July. So far, we have held 3 in-person worship services, on July 12th, 19th, and 26th. Our average weekly attendance has been 24 worshippers, about 12% of our capacity, plus 11 worship team members. It has been wonderful to see familiar faces and commune together once again!

For those who have continued attending online, we hope you have noticed little change as we've started this new hybrid of online and in-person worship, and that you continue to be fed by Word and Sacrament through the online service. As mentioned in previous messages, the in-person service has a same-yet-different feel, as we utilize protocols becoming common in our wider community in an effort to protect the health of our worshippers—wearing masks, spacing out seating, using packaged communion kits, etc. Our cleaning company is performing enhanced cleaning on Saturdays in preparation for our service, and again on Sunday after the service is over. I would like to thank the following people who volunteered with me as ushers in July: Robert Young, Josh DeWar, Shannon Morrison, Liz Walker, Tammy Kissling, Mark Davis, Tracy Richardson, and Jay Pryor. We would not have been able to hold in-person services without their willingness to serve in this capacity.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we will not be holding an in-person service on August 2nd. With rising rates of new Covid19 cases, Governor Beshear met with bishops and other judicatory leaders, including our Bishop Gafkjen of the ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod, asking them to consider suspending in-person worship through August 2nd in the hope of slowing the spread of the virus. Our council met on July 29th, with the majority voting to comply with this request as a show of solidarity in caring for the health of our members and community at large. The council and the task force plan to meet again the following week to reassess the situation and determine the path forward for in-person services. As always, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Bimen, Pastor Elisa, me or any members of the task force if you have questions or concerns. We knew the re-opening process might not be a direct progression, but perhaps follow a more meandering path, and this has certainly proven true already. We pray that these voluntary restrictions will succeed in its aim to slow the rate of infection, and in-person worship will be able recommence sooner rather than later.

Until then, I leave you with the closing words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:11–14, “¹¹Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³All the saints greet you. ¹⁴The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Sarah Pryor

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continues to request Associate Pastor candidates from the Synod. At this point in time, we have received two candidates from the Synod. Neither candidate has been a good fit for our Congregation. With the large number of pastoral vacancies, candidates have the luxury of having many options from which to choose. Graduating seminarians may become available in the fall (October) and spring (May). Please continue to keep all candidates and our Congregation in your prayers.

MUSIC NOTES

We are long overdue in thanking the singers who have been helping us out in our virtual worship journey the last nearly four months! In case you're not aware of how we did those services, every bit was live – nothing was recorded ahead of time as many churches are doing. There was a handful of us spaced all over the sanctuary.) We appreciate so much our hymn-singers, who come more or less in rotation: Jane & Tom Farrar, Marti & Hannah Gibson, Becky & Roger Miller, and Sarah & Molly Pryor. Bravo to all of them!!

A round of applause also should go to Liz Walker and Roger Kissling – they work tirelessly to “broadcast” our service over three different platforms at the same time and work hard to make improvements every week.

As I write this, we just completed our first in-person worship service. It was wonderful to have a congregation in the room, even though it was very small and prohibited from singing. I can't wait until we can all sing our hearts out again - worship without singing is indeed a very sad state of affairs. In the meantime, I hope you will participate by singing along there at home if you are not with us in person - the more you invest in worship, the more you will reap the rewards!

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S SERIES

In lieu of our Virtual VBS this summer, we are planning a special time during our 5 worship services in August specifically for the children and youth of our congregation.

Our pastors, along with some help from others, will present a different Bible story during the children's sermon. This time will be a bit longer than normal, about 5-10 minutes. After the story is presented the pastor will discuss it with our children who will be connected to our service via our online platforms.

The stories that will be presented:

- Aug. 2 **Matthew 14: 22-26** Jesus & Peter walk on water
Jesus gives Courage
- Aug. 9 **Luke 15** Finding the Lost Coin
Jesus gives Belonging
- Aug. 16 **Judges 4:1-16** Deborah judges with God's
Jesus gives Wisdom wisdom
- Aug. 23 **Luke 22:47- 24:12** Jesus dies and comes back to life
Jesus gives Forgiveness
- Aug. 30 **Acts 9:1-19** Ananias bravely helps Saul
Jesus gives Love to share

We are hopeful you and your children will enjoy this 5 week series. It will be a jumping off point for us as we begin to plan what Sunday school will look like in the fall via online learning.

HAVING FUN WITH HIS ONE & ONLY SON

One of our plans for our virtual VBS was to give children a "bendy Jesus" and ask them to send us photos of them doing fun things, acts of kindness or God Sightings with Bendy Jesus in the photo.

Jesus is a LIFESAVER!!!

Well, why should the kids have all the fun? We will be mailing a Bendy Jesus to you so that you may take part in "having fun with His one & only Son". The only rule is you must post your photo with Bendy Jesus on your Facebook page and tag Christ Lutheran Church. If you can't do this, simply email or text the photo to Liz Walker at clcvolunteers9@gmail.com or 502-693-7576 and she will make sure it gets posted. Let's flood the internet with Jesus!!



PROPERTY UPDATE

The Property Committee has had their finger on the pulse of activity surrounding our church building.

To date the entire roof has been completed and has been inspected. The total cost for this project was \$235,000.00

With much thanks and gratitude to Amy Petry and her family for their generous bequest in memory of Clifton Petry, the church bell tower will now get the love and repairs it desperately needs. The repair work will begin in August. We have signed a contract with DM Masonry. The total cost for repairs will be \$35,000.00.

The next big project that has been completed is the shingling of the Brick House and garage roofs. The contract for this job was awarded to GM Roofing. The cost for this project was \$11, 874.00. The funds for this project will be coming out of the Property budget, line item Special Projects Budget.

2021 YOUTH GATHERING Update



It is with great sadness we must announce that the Boundless Youth Gathering scheduled for July 2021 in Minneapolis has been postponed until July 2022. **Information about fundraising for this event can be found on page 3 in Pastor Elisa's article.**

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

We have recently changed how we handle prayer requests at Christ Lutheran.

We are now sending requests for prayers out to the entire congregation in an effort to keep our communication open with everyone in our church family.

If you would prefer to NOT receive the prayer request emails contact Liz Walker at clevolunteers9@gmail.com and she will promptly remove you from the group.

JEFFERSONTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT BLOOD DRIVE

The Jeffersontown Police Department will be hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, August 26 from 2-6pm at the The Jeffersonian (formerly the J'town Community Center) in the Kentucky Room, 10617 Taylorsville Road, 40299.

You will need to schedule an appointment to give blood. Simply go to redcrossblood.org and enter in the sponsor keyword: **jeffersontownpoliceclouky** or you can call 1-800-RED CROSS.



We're All in this Together!

JAM NEEDS OUR HELP!



After recent conversation with Marlon Cummings, Executive Director of Jeffersontown Area Ministries, it has come to our attention that JAM is in dire need of toilet paper. As Mr. Cummings said "we are the toilet paper church" having always donate thousands of rolls of this precious commodity over the years.

Now that the toilet paper shortage has come to an end, we are asking our members to consider donating toilet paper to JAM.

This year however, we are asking, to make it more efficient and safer, that you deliver your donation directly to JAM. They are located in the back of The Jeffersonian (formerly the Jeffersontown Community Center) at 10617 Taylorsville Road. Their hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 10am - 1pm and Friday 10am to 12pm.

Another way to donate is to order it online - Amazon is a great resource especially if you have Amazon Prime - and have it delivered directly to JAM.

As always, JAM will happily accept donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items as well. Especially these days, when so many people in the J'town area are in need of help, maybe drop off some groceries with that TP donation. Thank you in advance for your help.

NEW SOCIAL MINISTRY ENDEAVOR

Have Old Shoes You Don't Wear Anymore? Clean Out Your Closets in Support of Louisville Based Non-profit WaterStep!

When you come back to worship in the next month or so, bring your old shoes with you! The CLC church council has voted to begin in person worship again on July 12. In the meantime, the social ministry team has been trying to set up a time to sponsor a shoe drive for WaterStep, a non-profit that deploys simple water purification systems to many different countries around the world. Learn more about their great work at www.waterstep.org and <https://waterstep.org/Shoes-For-Water-Video/>. Clean water becomes even more vital in the middle of a global pandemic. So, CLC's social ministry decided to leave a collection box in the solarium where you can drop off your shoes on Sundays through August 2. Clean closets, people in the developing world with clean water. A win win!

Here is how it works. By donating your new and gently used shoes to WaterStep, you'll help fund safe drinking water projects all over the world — projects that help to save hundreds of thousands of lives each year. In addition to funding water projects, donated shoes keep hundreds of tons of waste out of our landfills. We accept gently used shoes that are free of mold/mildew. Athletic shoes are preferred, but we will accept all styles of shoes. Shoes are sold to an exporter and funds received help bring clean water to those in need. We look forward to seeing you around again in person! You've been missed! And those on the social ministry team will cheer especially loudly if you come back dragging a bag of old shoes! If you'd like to stay away from in person worship for health reasons but still would like WaterStep to benefit from your old shoes, pack them up in a sturdy plastic bag and bring them to the church office door. Staff can take care of them from there.





**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.