

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



JULY 2020

9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:1-8)

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

As we are facing at least two great dangers of our time; the Covid-19 pandemic and racial related tensions as well as, the political barometer in our country, I would like to invite you to reflect upon the letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians as printed above. The Apostle Paul urged the people of Philippi to use Jesus and his characters as their guiding principles and Christian practices the way they ought to treat each other.

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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

Likewise, Jesus and his characters should be our guiding principle as well to follow; the way we treat each other as fellow Americans, human beings and most of all as brothers and sisters in Christ. For we are created according to the image of God (*Imago Dei*) and equally important and precious in God's eyes. As the old movement, '*What Would Jesus Do*' (WWJD), made us think about Jesus daily; it seems it is still relevant in our lives today.

In a means of grace, we do like Jesus would do, treat other as Jesus would treat them, welcome each other as Jesus would welcome each and every one of us and to seek not only one's only interest but also the interest of others and serve one another following the example of Jesus' humble service. God calls us in this specific time and circumstances to become his agents of peace, love and reconciliations starting at home, in our church, community, country and around the world. By God's grace we can do that.

I would like to invite you to keep these things in mind too, as we are considering to return to our 'in-person' worship. It has been over three months now since we switched from in-person to on-line worship. I commend and thank you for all your support, patience and perseverance for the last three months. And although it has not been perfect, we continue find ways to improve our quality with the resources that we have. We have never been in this place before. We appreciate all the support and folks who have been dedicating their time and skills every Sunday so that we may be able to serve the spiritual needs of our people.

We are planning to start our 'gradual' in-person worship on July 12. Please keep in mind that there will be without any doubt some changes and protocols to follow when you come to worship. Our task force has been working hard to put together some plans with one thing in mind; to keep you and our neighbors safe. Again, I would like to urge you to do the same as we begin our in-person worship.

Indeed, this pandemic has changed and affected our lives and our church in so many ways. Another change that we have is that after 62 years of service and ministry to the community; our church has decided to close our preschool. In the last five years the enrollment has been declining. The preschool staff and the committee have been working so hard to find ways to continue our service for at least another year, but this pandemic has made it impossible for us to do.

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Please keep the preschool staff/teachers and parents in your prayers. As Christians, it is in our core belief about the reality of death and at the same time, the certain hope of new life. We are hoping and praying for the birth or the resurrection of new ministry for the children and families in our community. It is our hope and prayer that we will pass through this pandemic. However, in spite of all these changes and uncertainties; one thing that never changes is God and his faithfulness; it is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and always.

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong



VBS UPDATE



Mark your calendars for our 2020 Vacation Bible School, CLC's Virtual Greatest Hits VBS! We are planning to move forward with our VBS program the week of July 20-24, albeit as a virtual experience. We are planning to produce a live stream over the course of 5 days via Zoom to engage our youth and youth from our community in our VBS ministry.

We are choosing one day from 5 of our favorite past VBS themes. Each day will include an opening and closing, a bible story, a craft and snack and of course music. We will encourage kids to send photos of God Sightings and Random Acts of Kindness. The plan is for a 60-75 minute online experience. On Friday night, weather permitting, we will have a VBS Drive In Celebration. Families will be able to come and share what we have done all week in the church parking lot in a socially distant manner.

We hope you will register your child to participate in this virtual ministry. Ages are 3-11 years old or preK-5th grade. [Please click on this link to register](#). We are hoping there will be opportunities for our older youth to participate in this experience as well. Be on the look out for a registration link in the near future. Please contact Liz Walker at vbschristlutheran@gmail.com.



What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you

*my faith by my works. **James 2: 14-18)***

Hopefully, all of you have heard our newly minted ministry to feed J'town's homeless folks a hot meal once a week. Our evangelism and social ministry teams have worked together for the last three Saturdays to prepare and distribute 50 meals a week, the approximate number of people our partners believe are homeless in our area, with volunteers from our church. Eventually, we hope to invite other members of our community to join this mission alongside us. This project offers a vehicle for us to invite people in our neighborhood to participate in the work of Jesus with us in our kitchen and get to know them, which is the first step to loving them, which we are called to do. (Matthew 28: 16-20) In addition, with our neighbors' help, we can provide a lifeline to a group of people experiencing homelessness and its accompanying food insecurity in our midst. It is a win-win-win scenario for us, our neighbors and our homeless neighbors which it usually is when God's economy is at work. All the meals we prepare are packaged, put in warmer bags and from there distributed.

In our brief experience we have learned that prime efficiency and best social distancing is probably accomplished with 7 people (or less) depending on what is being cooked each week. All of you are invited to come and help! If you sign up to come and help us, please bring a mask to wear while you are here. Once the meal is packaged and prepared, we go meet houseless people where they are with the help of distribution teams that are already in partnership with Feed Louisville, a social service ministry cofounded by Rhona Kamar with whom we are partnering as well. Those distribution teams know where groups of folks camp in all parts of the city.

Links that can help you get to know them follow:

<https://www.facebook.com/feedlouisville/>

<https://www.wlky.com/article/feed-louisville-initiative-feeds-city-s-homeless-population-daily/32299890>

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Jeff Gill, one of the people that has distributed our meals, has his own organization that focuses on distribution of the food others make to homeless people all over the city. You may find out more about his organizations' needs and work at the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/HipHopCares502/> This link contains the organizations' purpose and a recent post talking about what their immediate needs are for the folks they serve. Jeff has told me that the food simply serves as a doorway into trusting relationships which are the only thing that may work to help folks who experience long term homelessness make the changes they need to get off the street. Jeff knows a ton about all the organizations around town that do that work, and so can refer people to the individuals and groups that can meet their needs, whether people need mental health services, job training services, recovery for drug and or alcohol addiction, recovery from emotional or physical abuse, or something else.

<https://www.wlky.com/article/hip-hop-cares-hopes-2020-brings-more-resources-to-louisville-homeless-population/30356270> This link is an interview with Jeff Gill, just one of the amazing Feed Louisville distribution crew that help get our food to folks in need.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=hip+hop+cares+wish+list&ref=nb_sb_noss_1 This link represents a long term wish list that has been constructed through the conversations he has with the folks we are serving.

As I have made clear above, to accomplish the role we are playing in all this good work, we need volunteers to sign up to help prepare the meal on Saturday mornings in the church kitchen. The link to the sign-up sheet is here: [Meal Preparation Sign Ups](#) We also need people who can rotate through the role of being kitchen bosses. The kitchen bosses' responsibilities are to choose the recipe(s) to be cooked the week they sign up (preferably one(s) that uses leftover food we have on hand if we have some), let other volunteers know what time to arrive on Saturday (this will depend on what we are cooking), buy the groceries at GFS (no card needed to shop there) or Costco, and divide the volunteers to accomplish tasks that range from cooking the main dish, cooking a side, rolling silverware, assembling silverware, fruit and dessert in bag, and writing notes to the people receiving the meals to let them know it all comes with love from our congregation. Lastly, the kitchen boss will be responsible for waiting until 12pm to meet the distribution team and hand off the food and bottled water we provide.

Please note that people we want to learn to be kitchen bosses will not have to come up with their own meal plan, as we have recipe possibilities on a link which is available for anyone who decides he/she wants to serve in this position. You could also sign up to do it once in partnership with someone who knows what she is doing. In addition, Bonnie Kroening the one who is teaching me about all this!, is available to consult if you are uncertain about the quantities given in the recipe or if you need help knowing for which ingredients to shop. I will especially need kitchen bosses for Saturday July 11 and Saturday July 18 because I will be out of town on vacation those weeks and so won't be able to fill in in a pinch.

I leave you with a report from Rhona on how the first week went. "I was amazed at the enthusiastic response to your food. The vulnerability hungry people have is heart breaking. We found 3 new couples recently homeless. We rode up on a group of men beside the steak and shake who were actively shooting up. This work is critical. The food is the gateway to the deeper connection (as it always is in my opinion) It establishes a bond, the trust that leads to what Jeff let you all know the other day, that when people are ready to change, people have learned to trust our guys enough to let them help them. In the meantime, the distribution teams are so tuned in to the immediate needs that simply keep people alive every day. Water alone saves lives on these hot days. Jeff immediately called someone and told them to bring Narcan to the ones using drugs. That may potentially have saved a live. He gave information on which shelters to call and when. These guys are heroes." Thank you for your support of having our church be involved in such meaningful work. If you have any questions, concerns or comments do not hesitate to give me a call at (502) 724-0150. I can also help you sign up for a time slot if you need help navigating google sheets. I hope to see you soon in the CLC kitchen!

Peace and love,

Elisa

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.



JULY 2020

			1 Pastor Bimer
5 10:00am Worship@Home Service w/ Communion Pastor Elisa Vacation	6	7 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	8 7pm Re-Open Force Zoom
12 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion Pastor Elisa Vacation	13	14	15
19 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	20	21	22 ← Virtual Vacation Bible S
26 10:00am -In Person Worship w/ Communion -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	27	28	29

	2	3	4
on Vacation	→		
ning Task Mtg	9	10	11
	→		
	16 7pm Council Zoom Mtg	17	18
	→		
	23	24	25
School—Our Greatest Hits	→		
	30	31	

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through May 2020

Expected Receipts: \$ 197,268.00

Actual Receipts: \$ 195,037.00

Thank you to June counters: Angela Adams, Bud Goss, Shannon Morrison

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings or had their bank mail a check directly. At the end of May, 2019 Actual Receipts were \$207,222. 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 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.

ALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continues to request Associate Pastor candidates from the Synod. We have received two candidates from the Synod. The first was called to another congregation and the interviewing process continues with the other candidate. Please continue to keep all candidates and our Congregation in your prayers.

CHRIST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL UPDATE

On Friday, June 19 the Preschool Committee made the very difficult decision to close our preschool doors after 62 years of service.

The decision was not come to lightly and in many ways left the committee heartbroken. However, over the past several years the school's enrollment numbers have been going down steadily. The end was in sight, however Covid-19 closed us a year early.

The new safety protocols mandated by the state and the CDC took away many of the things that made Christ Lutheran Preschool the school it was. Children would not be allowed to mix with children from other classes, we would not be able to offer rhythm and movement classes the way the curriculum was written by Donna Scott and Judie Torvie. We would not be able to allow parents into our school. One of the new guidelines affected how we recruit new families to our school; we are no longer would be allowed to offer in person tours of our facility

For the 20-21 school year we were projecting a maximum enrollment of 28 students; our total capacity is 68 students. 28 students would be our lowest enrollment to date, last year we had 36. With 28 students we were projecting a deficit of \$26,000 by the end of the school year.

Additionally, we would have to spend money that was not budgeted to provide PPE for all staff and disinfecting supplies, further adding to our deficit.

With Covid-19, we had no guarantee we would enroll 28 students, therefore we had no choice but to make the decision to close.

Please keep our staff, our students, our committee and our alumni in your prayers during this difficult time. If you would like to talk to anyone regarding our decision, please contact one of our committee members: Liz Walker (Chair), Pastor Bimen, Tammy Kissling (Treasurer), Keira Miller (Director), Hillary Mitoraj.



2021 YOUTH GATHERING **Our Next Steps**

The countdown is on for the June 29-July 3, 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Every three years, 30,000+ youth and adults attend the Gathering to worship, connect, learn and provide service to the Gathering's local community. Ours and other local congregations, will join together to represent the South Central Conference of the IK Synod at this national event.

Last month, we held a virtual information session for interested youth and their parents. We have also called the families of all eligible youth to gauge their interest in being part of this event. In addition, your associate pastor, along with South Central Conference youth coordinator Tammy Kissling and Youth Gathering pro Kathleen Breitenstein have started to create a realistic calendar for the fundraising and team building events that will help us prepare for the big show next summer.

In order to finalize that calendar, we need a group of youth and their parents who are willing to help organize these fundraising events and team building activities. As of now, we have identified between 17 and 20 youth from CLC who want to attend the Gathering and fundraising will play an important part in making it possible for as many youth as possible to participate.

We're working on making the time commitment relatively light. After the Gathering fundraising and team building calendar is set, individuals/families would head up one fundraising event or team building activity over the course of the next year and help with two or three other events. Essentially, head up one and help with two or three. Even if you don't have someone in your family going, you can still help out and be part of the excitement!

Our youth are counting on you to be part of this fundraising and team building group, so please contact Pastor Elisa as soon as possible. If many of us pitch in, the load on each of us will be much lighter and we're more likely to meet the fundraising goals and have fun doing it! We'll set up a calendar setting party either virtually or on someone's deck to set the stage. Can our youth count on you to help? They hope so!

TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Date & Table is Set

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
—Psalm 122:1

At the June meeting, the church council approved the recommendation of the task force to resume in-person worship services beginning on Sunday, July 12th at 10am, the first Sunday after Pastor Bimen returns from vacation. We will continue broadcasting the service online indefinitely via multiple platforms (Facebook, Zoom, and YouTube) for those who would like to continue to participate through the online experience. All is right and proper! Having a single 10am service will allow us to continue worshipping together, whether we are sitting in a sanctuary pew or on the couch in our homes.

We also feel it’s only fitting to celebrate Holy Communion as we gather together once again. Therefore, beginning with July 12th service, we will return to including Holy Communion in the service on a weekly basis. As always, all are welcome to participate as desired, whether you are joining us in person or online.

The re-opening of the church building will happen in gradual phases, starting with only one weekly 10am service and a limited capacity of 50 worshippers. For the first few weeks, we ask that you please RSVP to attend in person so we know when we reach our maximum capacity. A letter will be sent out soon, providing a link to an online RSVP form, and a more detailed description of what to expect when you arrive for the Sunday service during this first phase. For those without internet access, please call the church office to let us know you plan to attend on any given Sunday. If we find the service is filling up quickly, we’ll work towards adding additional service times. Our hope is that the re-opening process will go smoothly, allowing us to increase capacity and eliminate restrictions as the weeks unfold.

We’ll likely continue adjusting details as we begin putting our plan into action and attempt to follow ever-changing guidelines from health and government agencies—we apologize in advance for any confusion this may cause and will do our best to provide regular updates.

We encourage anyone who is uncomfortable with the Phase 1 processes and those in higher risk health categories to continue participating through our online worship services. In the meantime, we will continue to work toward providing a safe and healthy environment for all to gather together in person once again. We look forward to seeing you soon!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
& FEED LOUISVILLE PARTNERSHIP

Who are these masked super heroes??

They are members of Christ Lutheran Church!!

As you may have seen on social media Christ Lutheran is at it again....making Christ known within our community! We have partnered with the Feed Louisville initiative to prepare 50, yes FIFTY, meals a week for the homeless community in J'town.

Members may sign up for a Saturday (or two), come to church on your scheduled day and prepare and package a meal. Feed Louisville then picks up the meals and makes sure they are distributed. Social distancing is observed and masks and gloves are worn.

Here are few photos from our first couple of weeks. It has been so positive and fun during these difficult and trying times. Want to join the fun, contact Pastor Elisa at 665-2917 for more details and sign up information.







**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.