

# THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



JUNE 2020

9212 Taylorsville Road  
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



*"All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other." (1 Corinthians 10:22-23)*

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

The apostle Paul wrote the text above in his response to the complex issues the new church outside Jerusalem was facing especially in respect to the local cultures or traditions in the light of Christian faith. In this case their collective understanding about foods sold in the market or offered as sacrifice; is it permissible to eat or not? Or which one is permissible to eat and which one is not? Paul reminded them about the freedom in Christ. He said, for in Christ '*all things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful," but not all things build up.* Therefore, *Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other.*' In the following verses Paul added, *"Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, for "the earth and its fullness are the Lord's (1 Corinthians 10:25-26).*

*continued on pg. 2*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.christlutheranlouisville.org](http://www.christlutheranlouisville.org)

Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Interim Associate Pastor - Rev. Elisa Owen

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

Well, our forefather and reformer, Martin Luther echoed the similar thoughts. In his treatises '*On a Freedom of a Christian*' or sometimes it is called '*A Treatise on Christian Liberty*' Martin Luther stated that '*as fully forgiven children of God, Christians are no longer compelled to keep God's law to obtain salvation; however, they freely and willingly serve God and their neighbors.*' In his Theology of Justification he stated, "*A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*" God has set us free and that we may free to serve.

The reason I brought those two thoughts together is that I have been thinking and contemplating on our current situation with this pandemic and all the regulations that our government and our church's body have in regards to opening our country and our place of worship and what it means for our congregation. Like the early church was facing, we too are facing complex issues of our time, especially in the light of this pandemic.

As we all know COVID-19 still continues to spread all over the world, in our country, in our city and even among our members. Every day it seems it is getting closer and closer to home. We continue to hope and pray that our scientists will soon discover a vaccine or remedies for this virus. Until then, things are up in the air and unpredictable. Though both our national and local government leaders have allowed us to worship in person and our Constitution guarantees us to practice our faith. Even our faith guarantees our freedom that 'everything is permissible though not everything is beneficial or build up.' As Christians we are called to examine our freedom and use our freedom not for our own advantage but the advantage of our neighbors also especially the vulnerable among us.

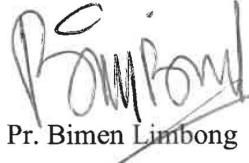
Yes, we are allowed to return to in-person worship according to the Law of our land now but we are bound to be extra careful the way we consider how to begin our in-person worship. Our church's 'Returning to In-Person Gathering' taskforce has put together well-thought out recommendations and protocols to start our in-person gathering and presented them to council last week and they have been approved. The taskforce will send a survey to our congregation for feedback.

*continued on pg. 3*

At the same time, we will take some time to watch for signs of spike in our community or churches around us before we make our official decision when to start our in-person worship..

Meanwhile, we will continue to offer our on-line worship, which we continue to improve. We have upgraded our high-speed broadband, audio and video system; we just added another live-streaming platform via YouTube and streaming software etc., as you perhaps noticed this last Sunday. We know this is not an ideal situation. But in spite of all these challenges, God has been with us all through this. God has opened wide ministry opportunities and drawn us even closer to each other in our collective vision of being connected to God, to one another and the world in our mission of Making Christ Known. Indeed, we have never closed our church; we just do it differently and uniquely. If God has been with us thus far, He will continue to lead us out of this. We will get there. Look forward to that day where we will gather together, hopefully soon. Again, I have to commend all our members who have been supportive of what our church is doing right now. Please continue to pray for our church members and also our pastors.

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong

## **RE-OPENING SURVEY BEING EMAILED OUT**

You will be receiving an email with a link to an online survey. We STRONGLY encourage all members/families to fill this out. Please read the Task Force article found on page 12 to **fully** understand what the Task Force has recommended and what the Council has approved for re-opening to in person worship. This survey will be a VERY important tool in re-opening our church. Your response will be greatly appreciated. Those who do not use email will receive a phone call to participate in a phone survey with a member of the committee.

If you have problems accessing the link please contact the church office and one of the staff will help you with the survey.



*What then brothers (and sisters)? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:26.*

Brothers and sisters,

I chose the above scripture because I want to use this space to bring you news of several things going on in with respect to my work with you in our church, things that I hope will work to do as the scripture says and build up not only the body of Christ in this particular place, the community in which God has placed us.

First, because my contract as your interim pastor was due to run out in June, I expected to be using this column to tell you how much I enjoy being among you, to thank you for being so very kind and welcoming to me and my family, and to start to tell you goodbye. From my viewpoint, however, at least one good thing that has come out of the very difficult circumstances of this pandemic. And that thing is that I do not have to do that last thing, at least not yet. The pandemic has presented some unique challenges to the associate pastor call committee which have slowed their process somewhat. Which means I've a bit more time to enjoy the compassion, laughter and sincere commitment to Christian faithfulness that are so much a part of your life together. As a result, I have agreed to remain with you at least through the summer and maybe longer, depending on how things unfold. I hope the added time I am able to be around will serve to build you up and encourage you in same way I have been built up and encouraged by having the privilege of spending this time in your midst.

Second, your council voted to approve a recommendation from both the evangelism and social ministry committees to partner with a new non-profit called Feed Louisville to bring a hot meal to 50 or so homeless people who live in the Jeffersontown area. Recently, I discovered that Feed Louisville is partnering with Douglass Blvd. Christian Church and Highlands restaurants to feed those affected by economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. Their goal is to scale up to delivering 500 hot meals a week in Louisville. After sharing what I had learned about their efforts with Pastor Bimen, we both wondered if Feed Louisville would be interested in partnering with another church having its own kitchen, CLC, to expand their reach into our Jeffersontown neighborhood. Subsequent discussions with Feed Louisville's director revealed that her organization was interested in other church partnerships.

*continued on pg.5*

From there we brought the possibility to serve in this way to the relevant committees and they responded very positively. Now, with council's approval, we have committed to providing one hot meal a week, for an initial trial period of 10 weeks, to the 50 homeless people Feed Louisville's distribution teams believe live in our area. We will buy the food, prepare it and package it. Feed Louisville's teams will pick it up and deliver. We will be working in social distanced family units in our kitchen and gym to prepare and package the food. Eventually we may be able to scale this up, inviting those in our community to join our efforts to reach out to our neighbors in need with hot meals. But, for now, my hope is that we can be built up and encouraged by God's invitation to do something tangible to ease, even a little bit, the food insecurity caused by this pandemic. And that those we serve can be built up and encouraged as we spread the love of God from our church kitchen to people who are as hungry for that as they are for food.

Finally, please get in touch with me if you have or know of a youth who may want to join the group CLC will send to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis MN in July 2021, or if you would like to join us as a chaperone. We will be starting to fundraise and team build in preparation for that meaningful even this summer, and so will need commitments from participants regarding their participation by the end of August. Don't let your young person miss this opportunity to be built up by the Holy Spirit as she works among those who seek her at the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Peace, love and hope to you as summer, the season of abundance, begins,

Pastor Elisa

### **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!



Dear People of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod,

Today President Trump called upon state governors “to allow our churches and places of worship to open right now.” This has led to some confusion on the part of worshippers across the country and, in some cases, the expectation on the part of some church members that their congregation will have in-person worship this Memorial Day weekend. Please feel free to share this communication from me with the members of your community of faith if you think it will be helpful.

In light of what President Trump said today, I am writing to reassert my earlier recommendation to the people and communities of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod that in-person gatherings for worship continue to be suspended, at least into June and probably longer.

As I said in previous communication, the church does not need to re-open. The church – the body of Christ – has been open and working all along. Most of the congregations and other ministries of this synod have continued to engage in active proclamation of the Word, fellowship, faith formation, and service to and with the neighbor throughout this wilderness, albeit in different ways. We can continue to engage these ministries for as long as we need to, even as we begin to plan to gather in-person and in new ways when it is safer and we are better prepared to protect God’s beloved. Yes, the ministries of the body of Christ are “essential services,” but we don’t need to sit in a sanctuary to experience and share them.

“All things are lawful,’ but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other” (1 Corinthians 10:23-24). While something like gathering in-person for worship might be “lawful”, that does not mean we should necessarily do it. Rather, we are called to keep our focus on doing what is beneficial, what builds up, and what addresses not only our own needs and well-being, but the needs and well-being of others.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Galatians 5:13f).

*continued on pg. 7*

We are not only freed from enslaving powers and attempts to appease God, but we are freed for bearing Christ's love to the neighbor. Freedom in Christ empowers self-giving love and service to others and to the world...especially at times like this.

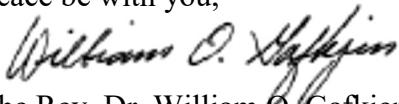
I know that it's not easy to stay at a distance from siblings in Christ. It's incredibly difficult for many of us to not be worshipping together in person. It's incredibly hard for me, too. I long to be in the physical presence of congregations, leaders and ministries, to gather in person with groups of deacons and pastors, to preach and preside in person, to pass the peace, to share a cup of coffee in the narthex, to laugh and pray and wonder and weep together.

But we who bear the mark of the cross of the crucified and risen Christ on our brow and the seal of his Spirit on our hearts have a particular call: to let cross-formed love for our neighbor take precedence over the urge to satisfy our own needs and desires, as appropriate or well-intentioned as they may be. And we, of all people, can be patient in caring for ourselves and our neighbors. We know that God is at work, just as God was at work in and through the cross and empty tomb.

In an early treatise entitled "On the Good of Patience," Bishop Cyprian suggested that when Christians entrust themselves to the patient God, who steadfastly and persistently continues to work hope, healing, and reconciliation in the world, and live patiently with themselves and others, they shine with the light of Christ in ways that both run against the impatience of the cultures in which they live and draw others toward Christ.

May God give us such patience and peace now and in the days ahead.

Peace be with you,



The Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop



# JUNE 2020

	1 7pm VBS Zoom Mtg	2	3 7pm Call Cn Mtg
7 <b>10:00am Worship@Home Service w/ Communion</b>	8 7pm Task Force Zoom Mtg	9	10
14 <b>10:00am Worship@Home Service</b>	15	16	17
21 <b>10:00am Worship@Home Service</b>	22	23	24
28 <b>10:00am Worship@Home Service</b>	29	30	

nte Zoom	4 7pm Preschool Cmte Zoom Mtg	5	6
	11	12	13
	18	19	20
	25	26	27

## FINANCE

### **Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through April 2020**

**Expected Receipts:** \$ 155,452.00

**Actual Receipts:** \$ 166,364.00

Thank you to June counters: Mike Trautman, Rhonda Trautman, and John Schmitt

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings or had their bank mail a check directly. During April we lost ground compared to the end of April 2019 when \$181,498 had been contributed. 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**

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.

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you recall from prior Call Committee's updates, we are actively receiving Associate Pastor candidates from the Synod. The first candidate has since been called to another congregation. We are in the process of interviewing the only other candidate sent to us from the Synod. Please continue to keep all the candidates and our Congregation in your prayers.

## 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. 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](mailto:vbschristlutheran@gmail.com).

## CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

1:15-3pm

Sunday, June 7 will be the last confirmation class of the year. The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated once in person worship resumes and we can pick a date that works for all.

Classes will take via Zoom until further notice. Pastor Bimen will send out Zoom invites prior to each class. We encourage all middle school youth to attend these classes.

## **RE-OPENING TASK FORCE UPDATE**

It's been a challenging few months for church worship, moving to a completely online format. Each week, we gain experience, improve techniques and overcome obstacles. We're so grateful for your feedback and support during this time. Soon we'll face new challenges as we pivot once more, looking forward to the day when we resume in-person gatherings. Our task force is working hard to prepare the church building and the church body for this day. We will soon survey the congregation via email and phone, to help us gauge the readiness of our members. Please respond to the survey, we want to know your thoughts! Once we've established a sufficient level of interest, prepared the building, and trained the worship team, we'll set a date to resume in-person worship. Detailed communications will then be provided on what to expect should you choose to begin in-person worship again. While we're anxious to meet again, there's much to do, and we're still several weeks away from being ready.

Like many others, we plan to re-open the building in gradual phases. The first stage will have the most stringent set up, being easier to manage a small group of people moving through limited areas. Things to expect during Phase 1:

- The building will be open for 1 worship service, on Sundays at 10am in the sanctuary. We do not plan to have live singing during this phase. Holy Communion will continue monthly, depending on availability of prepackaged, individual communion kits. We remain committed to live streaming the service and encourage most members to continue participating in online worship.
- In-person worship will be limited to 50 attendees, plus worship leaders and assistants. There will be no nursery available, and children must remain with an adult at all times.
- Small groups will continue to meet remotely. Generally, only church staff, worship teams, and cleaning crews will be in the building otherwise. Exceptions for groups under 10 are possible if council approves their plan to use the building facilities in a way that follows required safety protocols.

- Most of the building will be closed off on Sunday mornings, limited to 2 entrances (front and main side doors), with clear access leading only to the sanctuary and the restrooms next to the solarium.
- Extra levels of cleaning will be performed, particularly on frequently touched surfaces.
- Required individual safety protocols will include temperature and symptom checks before you enter the building, as well as wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

There are many more details planned for implementing Phase 1. Please contact me if you'd like a copy of the full proposal. We understand at times these steps will feel overly restrictive to some, too loose to others, and generally odd to everyone. We ask for your grace and patience as we navigate territories that are new to all of us. Phase 1 is based on guidelines from multiple sources given during April-May; some specifics may be revisited if situations and guidelines change in the coming weeks. Realizing we can't eliminate all risk, we want our church life to get back to "normal" as soon as possible, in the safest manner possible. Christ taught us the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We strive to keep those commandments always, in all we do, whether we continue gathering online or as we begin meeting in person. We can trust He is with us wherever we find ourselves.

I give thanks to our Lord for those serving with me on this task force—Pastor Bimen, Pastor Elisa, Roger Kissling, Becky Miller, Mike Trautman, Tracy Richardson, Dale Breitenstein, and Liz Walker. Their work, prayers, and thoughtful discussions are a testament to the love they share for our church family. Feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or concerns. Please keep this group and all our members in your prayers, that we may stay safe, care for one another, and be guided always by a spirit of humility and wisdom. Until we meet again, peace be with you!

Your servant in Christ,

Sarah Pryor

[spryor@bellsouth.net](mailto:spryor@bellsouth.net)

758-5108



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

By now it is NO surprise to anyone to hear about another young graduate not being allowed to graduate in the manner we have all become accustomed to. And it's also no surprise that families of these graduates have found new and fun ways to celebrate their graduate. What is also NO surprise is that Christ Lutheran Church did the EXACT same thing for their graduating youth!!!

We had the opportunity to celebrate 19 graduates from our church on Sunday, May 31. We started off the celebration by asking our graduates to submit a short video of what their hopes for their next life chapter are and what they feel God is calling them to do in this next stage. We showed this video during our Worship@Home service.

The next part of our celebration was a car parade at the church. We invited all the graduates to come to church where they received a congratulatory yard sign and a ball cap with the word HOPE on it. And although our turn out was not a grand as we had hoped for, the graduates, their families and the folks that drove past honking and hollering their congratulations had the most wonderful time.

It was a bright spot in the sometimes dark COVID 19 world we live in. To spend time with church family and friends was just what the doctor ordered. There were smiles, laughter, and the feelings of joy, hope and love. And although we may have been socially distancing, we felt a closeness many have been lacking.

Our graduates felt loved and special. Seeing their peers may have been the very best part for them. For the parents, seeing their children smiling and laughing with friends like they did 12 weeks ago was heart warming.

We want our youth to know we are proud of them. That what they accomplished in a new crazy normal was not going unnoticed. They are strong and resilient. They finished school online, a new and different territory they had to navigate. And they did it with ease and grace. They will move mountains because they already have. Congratulations and love to Skylar Carroll (12), Nick Gray(12), Hannah Gibson (12), Kennedy Hoehner (8), Gavin Kissling (8), Samuel Limbong(8), Jake Murphy (UK Grad), Henry Nixon (5), Alex Paul (8), Emily Paul (8), Zoe Peterworth (5), Nate Ribble (5), Damien Suter (12), Ian Walker (5), Mikayla White (8), Natalie White (8), Chloe Winskye (5), Ethan Wilson (8), Nate Wilson (5). You guys will be awesome in whatever you choose.





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 Jeffersonville 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.