

# THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



MAY 2020

9212 Taylorsville Road  
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



*"I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." <sup>2</sup> And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem." (Psalm 22:1-2)*

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

The verses above are part of a Pilgrims' song about his great anticipation to worship God in his temple in Jerusalem and how that anticipation came to reality.

For those who lived in diaspora, coming to the temple must had been an experience of a lifetime. The great anticipation and excitement of this pilgrim echoes our great anticipation and excitement about returning to our church again to worship him with all our brothers and sisters in Christ like we used to do. It has been over a month now since we changed our in-person services to virtual worships. Though we continue to improve our on-line worship experiences, they will never replace the in-person worship where we are physically present with our fellow Christians.

Now as both of our national and local leaders have started talking about reopening our country, our church also needs to begin thinking about how we can prepare our 'returning' to in-person worship. However, it is an unequivocal reality that our world after this pandemic will never be the same, and this will also be true of our church. *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

As I think of this, it makes me think of the return of the exiles from Babylon who found Jerusalem to be totally different than they left it in every aspect of life. They had to rebuild the temple, the city, the way of life and so forth. It happened again when the second temple was being destroyed in the year 70, the Jewish had to learn and adapt into a new reality; from the 'Temple' oriented worship into the 'Text' oriented worship. The reality is that the temple hasn't been rebuilt until today; therefore they have to learn how to worship God in different and meaningful ways.

Likewise, keep in mind that our returning back to church might be different that we had before; changes and adjustments might be required for our health and the health of our neighbors. Our church is forming a task force to come up with practical and safe recommendations for us to follow before we gradually return to in person gatherings. Though the governor recommended the opening of houses of worship by May 20, our church's in person gathering may not start on Sunday, May 24. It is our first priority to make sure that we are well prepared and ready to allow our congregation back into the church, while maintaining required social distancing requirements. We will keep our congregation informed of any decisions we make.

Meanwhile, we will continue to provide on-line worship services, meetings, Bible studies, and confirmation classes. We are looking at the possibility of having on-line Sunday school classes too. Indeed, our church's building might be closed, but our church has never been closed. God has opened his church in every household. Because of this pandemic, the words of Martin Luther who said that *'father and mother are apostles, bishops and priests to their children'* ring louder. We might not see God but one thing that we know for certain is that we can see God at work in the lives of people all around us the way we serve and care for one another.

Undeniably we have lost many things because of this pandemic; our freedom, social connections, economic security that causes us many grievances. As David Kessler, the author of *Finding Meaning: 'The Sixth Stage of Grief'*, suggests the importance of naming and understanding the stages of grief; denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, acceptance and finding meaning' will help us manage our grief and start to think about how we can let go of things that we can't control and stock up on compassion for others. (The Christian Century, pg. 8). At the same time, as the people of faith, we are asked to count our blessings and find ways to become a blessing to others. So, brothers and sisters in Christ, as Jesus said *'Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

Serving Christ with you,

  
Pr. Bimen Limbong

## FINANCE

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

**Expected Receipts:** \$ 120,888.00

**Actual Receipts:** \$ 140,270.00

Thank you to May counters: Jean Eisen, and Jane & Tom Farrar.

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings or had their bank mail a check directly. This has allowed the congregation's giving to be very similar to where it was at the end of March 2019 when it was \$141,448.00

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.



***For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. (First Corinthians 15: 16-20)***

Of all the things this passage might say to us and about us, I want to highlight just one. That one thing it says about Christ, and thus an essential thing it says about us, Christ's people, is that the resurrection is essential for revealing who Christ is, God's son, and thus central for revealing whom we are, Christ's resurrection people. Assuming that it is as our scripture says, that we are a people not only formed but also birthed out of the crucible of the impossible possibility, as 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian Karl Barth has called it, of Jesus of Nazareth's resurrection by his Father from the dead, then my question to you all this month is what are we doing to make sure we continue to be the people we are. In other words what are we doing day by day, especially in Eastertide, to practice the resurrection?

Pastor and pastoral theologian Eugene Peterson wrote a book called Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up In Christ that is a wonderful resource for those of us who claim to belong to Jesus and seek ways to deepen that relationship of belonging. Peterson's book interprets the book of Ephesians in order to explain what it means to be the people of God or, to put it another way, how we might live into having been baptized into God in Christ's community of friends. I recommend it to all of you. I also recommend a poem by Kentuckian Wendell Berry, "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" for additional clues on what practicing resurrection might look like in our daily lives.

Lastly, as I did with your council this last meeting, I want to invite all of you to join me for the month of May in a practice I have come to understand as one way of practicing my own identity as a child of the resurrected Lord, journaling my gratitude. I want to invite you to write down three things for which you are grateful for during the month of May. Not three things for the whole month, to be clear, but three things every day. Why? Because in my experience being attentive to the things for which God makes us grateful is a way to, as Brother Lawrence puts it in his book, another I recommend to all of us, Practice the Presence of God. And the God in Christ who is present to us is, by definition, the risen Lord.

*continued on page 5*

Lastly, seeing the risen Lord present, recognizing Him at work in the world, especially this one at this time, helps steel us in the fundamental Christian practices of faith hope and love.

If you are interested in practicing this gratitude discipline as part of whatever group of disciples that coalesces around my invitation just send me an email at [associate\\_pastor@christlutheranlouisville.com](mailto:associate_pastor@christlutheranlouisville.com). We'll get together on Zoom twice during May; once around mid month and once as the month ends, to discuss if and how this spiritual practice is shaping us during this difficult pandemic. I am planning our meetings for Wednesday evenings May 13 and 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 so you know when your attention to your fellow pilgrims and thus to God will be required. We will be exploring how the practice of gratitude may or may not be aiding you, and others, to spot the "resurrected savior on the loose" during Eastertide, despite the difficulty of our current circumstances. I look forward to hearing from those of you who want to play the gratitude game in the coming month along with your interim pastor and your other self identified brothers and sisters at Christ.

Meanwhile, peace and love to you all.

Pastor Elisa

## **YOUTH GATHERING KICK OFF MEETING**

It is time to beginning planning for the next Youth Gathering, which will be held in July of 2021. Join Pastor Elisa, the South Central Conference Youth Coordinator Tammy Kissling, other interested CLC youth, their parents and friends of CLC youth on **May 13, 2020** at 7:30pm for an informational zoom meeting about what will be happening between now and then to raise funds, meet other folks who are going and otherwise prepare for the big shebang. If you plan to attend the meeting, just email Pastor Elisa at [associate\\_pastor@christlutheranlouisville.com](mailto:associate_pastor@christlutheranlouisville.com) in order to make sure she is aware you want to attend. She'll put you on the list for attendees at the zoom gathering. Look forward to "seeing" lots of you then!





		1	2
	7	8	9
1 Youth Room Mtg	14	15	16
	21 7pm Council Mtg	22	23
	28	29	30

## PROPERTY UPDATE

This spring we applied for a \$250 Thrivent funds card. These funds have partially funded our landscaping beautification project this spring. After the roof is finished and we continue to practice social distancing, mulching, pruning, and a few flower plantings can take place around the building.

A few Wednesday friends were working one week in April, and a neighbor stopped to let us know how much he appreciated the nice landscaping around the church property and the new roof. As he put it, "It helps to make the neighborhood inviting." So when it is safe to help on any Wednesday morning, join us to keep the weeds at a minimum and the plants looking great!



## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you may recall, the Call Committee submitted the Council-approved Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to the Synod in early March with hopes of being in the consideration set for new seminary graduates. As of April, there has been one interested candidate whom the Call Committee interviewed. After the interview, the candidate and the Call Committee both expressed a need to temporarily “pause” the call process due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the Synod’s support, and while our call process is “paused”, interested candidates will continue to be passed along to the Call Committee for consideration. Please continue your prayers for our congregation and candidates.

## VBS SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for our 2020 Vacation Bible School, Rocky Railway. We are tentatively scheduling our VBS July 20-24, 2020 (or July 27-31, 2020). We will send out an email once a date has been firmed up and have the go ahead to have a camp from our task force and Governor Beshear.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE

With a grant from Thrivent, our congregation was able to provide 100 sack meals consisting of: cheeseburgers, chips, orange, granola bars and a bottle of water for The Forgotten Louisville to distribute on April 8. Due to the shelter in place we could not serve a meal but still provided one that evening.

Not even COVID-19 can stop our church from *Making Christ Known*

## **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.

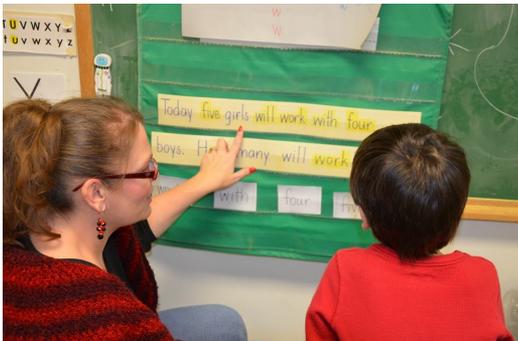
Are you finding yourself in need of help during this time of quarantine. Do you need groceries or your medications, but are afraid to go out because of health concerns? We ENCOURAGE you to call the church office. We will help you get the supplies you need. Pick up the phone and check in on one another.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

## **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](http://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 [elkindergarten@bellsouth.net](mailto:elkindergarten@bellsouth.net).



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## **Sunday School Schedule PreK through 5th Grade**

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.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

1:15-3pm

Month/Date	Topic: New Testament	Scripture
<b>May</b>		
10	Stewardship of Time	Mark 12:28-30
24	Stewardship of Talents Stewardship of Treasure	Matthew 5:3-10,13a,14, 16 Malachi 3:10
<b>June</b>		
7	Confirmation	

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.





**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.**