

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



“This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said.” (Matthew 14:15-18)

The text above is part of conversations between Jesus and his disciples prior to a miracle of feeding the five thousand people in the wilderness. It began when Jesus went to a deserted place (wilderness) after his public ministry and great crowds followed him on foot from towns all over. When Jesus saw them, he had compassion for them and healed their sick. But the disciples responded differently. When they saw the crowds, they were concerned, but at the same time they seemed to view that circumstance as a ‘liability’ or ‘financial burden’. For it will cost more than a half of the year’s wages to feed such crowds as the disciples estimated (Mark 6:37). They chose the easiest and cheapest way by suggesting that they should be sent away into the villages so that they may buy foods for themselves. But Jesus has a different idea; instead of

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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

sending them, away Jesus urges them to do something about it saying, *"Give them something to eat."* The disciples said in response *"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish"* Jesus said, *"Bring them to me"*. When the disciples gave what they had in their hands, Jesus blessed them and broke them and gave them to the crowds and low and behold five thousand men were fed not including women and children and not only that, when they gathered the leftover, there were 12 baskets full. The story of the feeding the five thousand is recorded in all four gospels. There is no doubt that the reason why it is recorded in all four gospels is because it is important. It is important for the church throughout the ages to hear and believe just as it is important for our church now. Just like the disciples we often think about our scarcity and inadequate resource or what we don't have or what we are not capable of. Brené Brown refers to scarcity as the 'never enough' problem. But the gospel, she said, moves us from a mindset of deficiency to one of sufficiency by providing a counter-narrative of worthiness, compassion, and connection. We should never experience a moment of not being enough or not having enough for Jesus."

We are in the middle of this pandemic wilderness; a deserted and uncharted territory. We are like the crowds - tired, exhausted and hungry and at the same time, we are like the disciples of Jesus whom God entrusts the great crowds of hungry people both spiritually and physically to serve and feed. We do tend to feel we have limited resources; only 5 loaves and two fish. The good news is that we are not alone in this deserted place, Jesus is accompanying us. Jesus invites us to his abundance by giving what we have to Jesus that he may bless and multiply them to feed the hungry world both spiritually and physically. One of the things that I have noticed in our church for the last six months since the beginning of this pandemic is how you continue to support the life and ministry of our church through your financial generosity. I thank God for that.

We focus our stewardship campaign this year on 'generosity' using the synod's stewardship program called, "Beginning a Culture of Generosity" that is based upon the very same biblical story of feeding the five thousand as mentioned above; how can we, as the followers of Christ name and count God's blessings and generosity and live generously.

Because through your generosity we are able to provide meaningful and vibrant ministry in spite of our circumstances. We do not know how long this pandemic journey will take us, but through your generosity God will multiply them and create an abundance to serve the people God sends on our way.

As part of our stewardship drive this year, we will be asking members of our church and community to share their stories how our ministry has impacted their lives or the lives of others. You may be asked to share your own stories how our church's ministry, whatever it might be, has impacted you or how it has impacted others. Or if you have a compelling story to tell, please let us know either in writing or video. We will post them either in our bulletin insert, Messenger, FB, Website or displayed on screen on Sunday morning. You will also expect the first stewardship letter by mid-October explaining more detail on our campaign.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God has entrusted to us this great ministry, God counts on us to be generous just as God is generous. As the Apostle Peter said, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong



five barley loaves and two small fishes

John 6: 9



Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (John 21: 12b-17)

We in the church universal and this particular church are a resurrection people; born in the powerful wake of heart led commitments to God's way that followed Christ's rising from the dead. As such, we are called to live into the promise to which it testifies. The promise of a coming Kingdom in which God's politic, that is God's gracious and life giving will for the totality of her beloved, and ultimately obedient and joyful creation, reigns. In anticipation of that glorious day when this Kingdom becomes a universal, permanent reality rather than a sporadic one, our church has been working for the last three months on a project to provide 50 hot meals to the food insecure population in our immediate neighborhood and beyond. Most of those meals have actually gone to people living on the streets. After we cook them, our partner in this endeavor, Feed Louisville, distributes them.

At the August council meeting, the council gave your evangelism team the green light to continue to build on our initial summer long commitment to this ministry by supporting our request to continue to feed Louisville's hungry sheep at least until the end of this calendar year. In response, the evangelism team used our August gathering to brainstorm ideas for from where the budget to do that might come and also for increasing the number of people supporting the effort by serving in the kitchen.

By God's grace, in less than a month we have answered the question of needed money. The evangelism team applied for an INKY synod grant set aside for local church ministries working on the front lines to combat societal problems being exacerbated by the pandemic. Hunger is certainly one of those.

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On September 4 we were informed that we are to receive what we asked for, a \$1600 grant to cover most of our expenses for food over that period. That along with a couple of Thrivent cards we've also received in support of these efforts will likely cover our financial needs from now until Christmas. If you wish this ministry of our church to thrive beyond 2020, however, we are happy to accept your additional Thrivent cards or other direct donations toward future work.

The other pillar that will strengthen our ability to continue to carry out this work is volunteer support. On August 22, as part of the Back to School Big Splash, 10 youth filled our kitchen to feed God's sheep. It is my hope that the youth will continue to want to serve in this way. Moving forward, however, it will be best, due to Covid precautions, to have the high school youth cover our next 3rd Saturday volunteer opportunity, on October 17, and the middle school youth cover the following one, on November 21. After that we will simply switch out those groups every other month. Beyond 3rd Saturday service opportunities, there remain spots for others to become involved as kitchen volunteers. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you are interested and we can find a Saturday morning in which you and your friends, or you and your family can show your love for Jesus by feeding his dearly beloved lambs. Look forward to finding continued joy and purpose working with you on this effort to lean in toward the Kingdom which is certainly coming.

Peace and love,
Elisa

SCC YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, September 18 Christ Lutheran Church held an outdoor movie night for the youth of the South Central Conference. The movie of choice...*The Princess Bride*.

Eleven of the conference youth from Christ Lutheran, Ascension Lutheran, First Lutheran and St. John Lutheran attended the movie. The kids had a great time. They enjoyed popcorn and candy together.

It was a wonderful opportunity for them to reconnect with their peers during this challenging time.

Thanks to Tammy Kissling, Youth Coordinator for the SCC for putting together this great event.

COUNCIL UPDATE **ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL**

As a part of the call process, candidates may be offered up by members of a congregation to the call committee, or council for consideration in addition to being identified as possible candidates from the Synod. It was in this way that members of the congregation inquired about asking Pastor Elisa to consider putting her name in as an option to fill our Associate Pastor position on a permanent basis.

Due to the possibility of a change from interim to permanent Associate Pastor, Pastor Elisa reached out to Pastor Bimen to discuss the role of Associate Pastor within the future of CLC. As a result of these discussions, Pastor Bimen and Pastor Elisa expressed ideas and desires for the role which were not in line with each other. Due to this inability to find a common ground, Pastor Elisa feels it would be best to not seek a call as the Associate Pastor at CLC and to respect the role of Pastor Bimen as Lead Pastor.

Pastor Elisa's decision not to seek a call at CLC is not a reflection of her unhappiness with the work, people, or connections she has made in her time, nor will it reflect her desire to continue her ministry here on an interim basis. She will work to not only fulfill her contract which is set to expire in December, but fully work to continue the growth of the people and mission of the church. Both she and Pastor Bimen are committed to work together to make the Congregation stronger.

We are grateful for the work of Pastors who are passionately invested in the people, church, and relationship with God that we have here at CLC. While these decisions are difficult, we respect the thoughts and discernment necessary to reach them and will support both pastors in their growth as they support us.

If you wish to discuss this, or any other matters, more deeply feel free to reach out to me or the other members of the council.

May God's peace be with you all.

Roger Kissling

CLC Council President

502-797-0349

rogerkissling75@gmail.com

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has been busy this month. The team recommended to the council some changes to the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). These changes (1) reflect changes in our congregation's life due to COVID and (2) more accurately and holistically define the role of the associate pastor by broadening the critical tasks. The hope is these edits will allow more pastors to feel a call to our congregation. The Council has approved the MSP, and it has been submitted to the Synod.

Meanwhile, if you know of any ordained pastors that may be open to a call and have the right gifts for ministry at Christ Lutheran, you are invited to confidentially pass their name along to Jenny Nixon, 502-550-6424 or jennynixon@gmail.com. Jenny, in confidence, will discuss with Pastor Heather Apel at the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Pastor Heather vets the candidates and if the candidate is open to exploring the call at Christ Lutheran, then the candidate's information will be shared with the Call Committee, in confidence, and the call process can continue.

As a reminder, the call committee can discern up to three candidates at any time, although this has yet to be an issue.

MUSIC NOTES

We've added two more pairs of singers to our Sunday roster and we thank Kathleen & Dale Breitenstein and Lisa & Shirley Williamson for their contribution to our worship!

It occurred to me (after reading another church's newsletter) that you might enjoy occasionally reading a bit about the background of some of our favorite hymns, so next month we'll learn a bit about one of the congregation's favorites – *Fairest Lord Jesus/Beautiful Savior*. Stay Tuned!



OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	
4 No Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	5	6 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	7
11 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion 1:15pm Confirmation Class	12	13	14
18 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	19	20	21
25 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion 1:15pm Confirmation Class	26	27	28

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3
	8 7pm Re-Opening Task Force Zoom Mtg	9	10
	15 7pm Council Zoom Mtg	16	17
	22	23	24
	29	30	31

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through September 2020

Expected Receipts: \$ 305,984.00

Actual Receipts: \$ 294,998.00

Much of this shortfall is from areas affected by COVID. Loose offering is down \$3200 since we're meeting virtually. Easter offering is down \$1300 because we met virtually at Easter. Church envelopes are down only \$2800 after eight months. In addition, some expenses are down due to virtual meeting.

Thank you to October Counters: Trish Ferris, Mike, and Kim Hajnik

Thanks to all members who have mailed in their offerings, had their bank mail a check directly, or used Tithe.ly. At the end of August 2019 Actual Receipts were \$317,177. 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.

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.

Memorials have been received in the months of August and September in memory of Bob Ebert, Herb Miller and John Poisel. Memorial giving can be done online via Tithe.ly. Just make sure to choose Memorial Fund and enter the name of the person in the Note section. Thank you for your generosity.

*****PLEASE SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO
PAGE 11 FOR MORE ONLINE GIVING IN-
FORMATION******

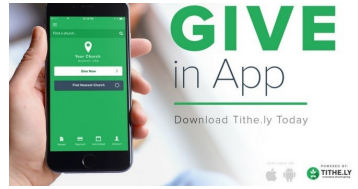


SCAN ME

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.



TASK FORCE UPDATE

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. --Colossians 3:15

I am indeed thankful for the many ways God continues to bless us throughout these strange times. Our return to in-person worship has gone smoothly throughout the month of September, where we have averaged around 20 worshippers in attendance each week. Now that we've held in-person services for two months (in July and September), I am happy to report that we have not experienced any outbreak of the virus among our in-person worshippers.

We continue to follow phase 1 protocols and keep a close eye on the data to guide our actions each week. If you are interested in joining us, please watch for the RSVP link that is emailed out each week or call the office if you do not have internet access. As always, we are happy to join you in online worship via Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom too! Please continue to keep our Pastors, worship team, and all our members in your prayers for continued health and wholeness.

Peace be with you!
Sarah Pryor

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Work on the bell tower should be finished this week. Since the masons are on location, we have asked if they can repair a few cracked bricks outside room 8.

The boiler in the basement was cleaned and repaired by Venhoff Plumbing for \$680. It should be ready for winter!

All things property continue to keep moving forward. Rod Hester continues to mow the church property, while Raymond Peak and Roger Miller continue to keep the ditches maintained. Dale Breitenstein continues to mow and trim our cemetery. Wednesday Friends continue to meet weekly to pull weeds, trim bushes, pick up sticks and generally keep our property looking well manicured!

If anyone would like to join the Property Committee, the meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. You may also reach out to Dale Breitenstein or Marilyn Peak.

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC: Old Testament</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
October		
4	No Confirmation	JCPS Fall Break
11	The Fall	
25	People of the Promise	
November		
8	The Promise Continues	
22	Confirmation / Youth Retreat @ Cedar Ridge	
December		
6	Moses and the Wondering	
13	Of Tents and Kings	
20	No Confirmation Class	Christmas Program

Don't forget the Faith 5, it takes about 20-30minutes to complete. Here is how it works:

1. First, you **SHARE** your highs and lows for the week, day or time period since the last time you practiced together.
2. **READ** a Bible verse or story.
3. **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows.
4. **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows
5. **BLESS** one another.

When done over time, **FAITH5** carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote spiritual health in families. Please try it for a few weeks and let us know what you think.


You may use the following links to help you find a reading each time you and student(s) practice **FAITH 5**:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>

<https://www.elca.org/lectionary>.

You can also use the Celebrate Insert that contains readings for each of the week.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

October Birthdays		October Anniversaries	
10/3	Liz Dawson	10/10	Sherri & Rudolph Hesler
10/7	Mallory Cord	10/13	Cathy & Ron Skelton Liz & Scott Walker
10/11	Morgan Bowman	10/19	Robinn & Barry Barmore
10/14	Nora Turpen	10/20	Terri & Keith Kenitzer
10/17	Kate Selch Robert Strohman	10/27	Gary & Peggy Stephens
10/18	David Pfalzgraf		
10/19	Tony White		
10/21	Jane Farrar		
10/22	Germaine Overstreet		
10/24	Emory Bell Sinclair Bell		
10/25	Marty Glasscock Danna Hesse		
10/28	Pam Ballinger		
10/29	Mike Trautman		
10/30	Emily Richardson Hannah Richardson		
10/31	Ginny Hallum		



Don't forget to share your special dates with us!
We would love to celebrate you!

PACK THE CHURCH GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Sunday, September 13 was an amazing day. Thank you to everyone who came out to “pack the church” with personal hygiene items and household cleansers for JAM. To say it was a success is an understatement. The members of Christ Lutheran Church truly know how to Make Christ Known and September 13 was no exception,





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.