

# THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020



9212 Taylorsville Road  
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



*"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)*

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

First of all it is hard to be still especially when everything around us is constantly changing especially during this pandemic. None of us expected that this pandemic would last this long, and we are still not sure how much longer it will this last. The ongoing lockdown and the uncertain end to this pandemic have created great anxieties that have lead to depression and both mental and physical illness.

New data from around the U.S. confirms that drug overdoses are spiking during the coronavirus pandemic, rising by roughly 18%. The National Alliance of Mental Illnesses (NAMI) predicted even higher, increased 30% since March. Overdose deaths rose 5% last year, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), killing roughly 72,000 Americans. It is getting closer to home.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Interim Associate Pastor - Rev. Elisa Owen

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

As a matter of fact, we just lost one of our dear members due to the illness of addiction and an overdose that broke our hearts, especially those of the family.

In another case, cardiologists at the Cleveland Clinic have noted an increase of broken-hearts syndrome, a colloquial name for stress cardiomyopathy, a dysfunction or failure of heart muscle caused by physical and emotional stress. As polls have shown one-third of Americans have experienced depression or anxiety during this pandemic and prescriptions for anti-anxiety medication have surged. Let's not forget to count consider that more than 54 million people may experience food insecurity in 2020, including a potential 18 million children.

We have all experience the impact of this pandemic in one degree or the other. This pandemic, in a way, has forced us to live in this 'new normal'. Our kids are learning how to navigate new ways of learning and teachers are learning how to navigate the new ways of teaching that they have never before. Parents also are learning how to accommodate the needs of their children making sure they achieve their educational goals.

Our church has also learned how to adapt in this new normal even though sometimes it is against our will. In March we decided to have online worship and did it until early July. Our taskforce put together safe protocols to follow. In July we started our in-person worship hoping that things would continue to get better and had it for three Sundays. However due to the increased is cases and positivity rates we decided to return to our on-line worship. We did so for the wellbeing of our members. It is our call to love our neighbors as ourselves. We continue to monitor the situation hoping and praying that the spread of this virus will continue to decline and decimated and we will return to in person worship safely. Because everything is fluid in this new normal, sometimes it requires us to be flexible.

However, in the midst of all these changes and changes in life, God is inviting us to be still and know that He is still God. God is still in charge. God has all the power over our lives and to trust that in all things God works together for our good.

I don't believe that God brings this pandemic to punish us or to prove that He is God, but I do believe that this pandemic is a test of our faith whether we believe that God is still God and to put our trust in Him in all these things. In a way, this pandemic has forced us to slow down. It has helped us to see what really matters in life and to realize how fragile life is in spite of all the knowledge and power we think we have. It has made us realize how much we need God and each other even more than what we have ever imagined. Indeed God created us for relationships; a relationship with God and relationships with one another. That is what I have witnessed for the last six months; the way we worship and the way we care for one another.

Through this pandemic, God opened wide ministry opportunities; sharing God's messages to thousands of people globally on weekly basis, feeding the hungry, helping members who are in need, offering hospitality to each other just to name a few. This month, for our God's Works Our Hands, we will focus on helping the needy in our community through JAM. Be still, brothers and sisters in Christ, know that our God is still God. With Him we will go through this.

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong





*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4: 4-8.*

When I think of the blessings of the pandemic (yes I think there have been some!) one of them is that I, and I hope we, will never again take for granted the joy of gathering with friends and family in groups. I also hope we will never again how essential and nurturing that sort of community is for our sense of well being and so we will redouble our efforts to nurture communities in our midst, like churches, that extend to us all that sense of belonging. I say this because I don't think there are many who would argue against the statement that we've been able to gather way too little in the past six months and lament the fact that it looks as if we will have to do way too little of it in the next six as we wait for a vaccine, or for our country to get itself together and drive the number of cases down so we can resume some semblance of normal life.

Still the scripture says that we should Rejoice in the Lord always, even now! The author of Philippians must have said what he meant about rejoicing because it was repeated twice! So, taking the author of this book of the Bible at his word I have been wracking my brain figuring out how we can have a safe party. How we can gather to celebrate the beauty and grace of fall even if it we will endure it in the grips of a global pandemic. And, perhaps we have come up with a solution for how to have our traditional family camp, that means church family camp, because it will definitely not be just for people in traditional families! But for all of us whatever attachments we have.

Here is my proposal. I invite all of you to join church leadership at The Parklands for a day of social distanced frolicking in the park. We're thinking specifically of enjoying this day together on Saturday, September 26, 2020. Through Blue Moon canoe and kayaking, we can rent canoes, tandem kayaks and single person kayaks and go down the river together but apart in family designated boats. Sound fun? There's more!

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If you aren't up for a paddle down Floyd's fork, gather a smaller group for biking (bring your own or rent those too from Blue Moon) or hiking or just chatting with friends socially distanced in the shade. Then, when we've finished reveling together that afternoon in God's creation we will gather apart again for a picnic dinner (assuming Covid cases are going down in earnest at the Woodlands pavilion. We need grace enough to be able to decide to postpone if not.), or another picnic ground in the Parklands, and have dinner followed by an evening worship service celebrating the goodness and grace God still grants us, even the joy of being together apart in the beauty of God's creation that day, in the midst of pandemics and other hardships. That worship service will enable us to commune together in a larger group than has been possible since the pandemic started and it will also allow us to be together again as the body of Christ in worship, but outside and safely. During that worship we will focus on those things that do not change even when times are hard, God's invitation to lift our eyes at all times to whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous or praiseworthy. These graces abide, as God does my friends, even in a pandemic. Thanks be to God!

If you are in for this CLC family camp experience on Saturday, September 26 from noon to 8PM give Pastor Elisa a call and let her know what you'd like to do that day (kayaking, canoeing, biking, hiking or just chatting with friends) and she'll take care of the rest. If you want to come she needs your reservation by September 14. Hope to see you at the Family Camp! It's high time we had something to celebrate!

Peace and love,  
Elisa

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS ELCA Initiative

Sunday, September 13 is the ELCA's God's Work Our Hands day of service. We have decided to do a personal hygiene/cleaning supplies drive for JAM that we are calling **Pack the Church**.

From 12:00pm - 3:00pm that Sunday we will be collecting donations in the church parking lot. People can drive through and drop off their items without getting out of the car.

We will have a cardboard church that we want to fill with donated items.



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

## FINANCE

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

**Expected Receipts:** \$ 264,598.00

**Actual Receipts:** \$ 265,263.00

Thank you to August counters: Dale Breitenstein and Kathy & Curt Sigdestad.

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 July 2019 Actual Receipts were \$278,785. We appreciate your continued support for our mission of Making Christ Known even during this extraordinary time.

We now offer several ways to contribute to Christ Lutheran:

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 4029
2. You may write a check as normal, put it in your offering envelope and mail it to the church.
3. You may now contribute online with a debit or credit card by using the Tithe.ly from your phone or computer or by scanning the provided QR Code. Details on page 7.

**\*\*\*PLEASE SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO  
PAGE 7 FOR MORE ONLINE GIVING  
INFORMATION\*\*\***



**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.



# SEPTEMBER 202

Sun	Mon	Tue	
		1 7pm Property Zoom Mtg	2
6 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	7	8	9
13 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion 12pm God's Work Our Hands Event	14	15	16
20 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service w/ Communion	21	22	23
27 9am Sunday School 10:00am -In-Person Worship -Worship@Home Service	28	29	30

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5
	10	11	12
	17 7pm Council Zoom Mtg	18	19
	24	25	26 Family Camp @ The Parklands

## TASK FORCE UPDATE

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

After cancelling our August 2<sup>nd</sup> in-person worship service at the request of Governor Beshear and Bishop Gafkjen, we continued with online-only worship for the rest of August because in spite of the plateauing of new cases, positivity rates were higher than the recommended level. Seeing recent improvements in the numbers, the task force met on August 27th, unanimously agreeing to recommend re-starting in-person services beginning September 6th, which was approved by council.

A registration link for the 10am Sunday service will be emailed out and posted on our website. We ask anyone with internet access to RSVP for in-person services through this online registration. For those without internet access, please call the church office to be registered over the phone. We will continue to use the same safety protocols outlined in our [What to Expect](#) document, which includes social distancing, mask requirements, and symptom checks. For extra layers of protection, we recommend you wait 14 days to attend in-person worship if you have traveled out of state recently, and plan to attend in-person services every other week to essentially build in a 14-day buffer for yourself and others in case you are unknowingly exposed to the Covid19 virus. We will continue to watch for any developments that might necessitate a revision of these plans.

As always, online worship will continue to be offered and encouraged for those who are in higher risk categories or are uncomfortable with Phase 1 safety requirements. Please contact Pastor Bimen, Pastor Elisa, or any members of the task force if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to worshipping with you, either in person or online. Peace be with you!

Your fellow servant in Christ,  
Sarah Pryor

## CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

Confirmation Class Orientation occurred on Sunday, August 30. The class was conducted by Pastor Elisa and Pastor Bimen. The students had an opportunity to share highs and lows and to pray for each other.

Pastor Elisa has sent out emails detailing some of the plans for this class. One email talked about Faith 5. The year we are encouraging students and their families to use Faith 5 as a way to practice your faith together in your home between confirmation meetings. The church is here to support you as you work with your youth to continue their faith formation. Please check in with your student using Faith 5 at least once a week.

Faith 5 takes about 20-30 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>.

**Our next confirmation class will be Sunday, September 20  
at 1:15pm via Zoom.us.**

## 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 [clcvolunteers9@gmail.com](mailto:clcvolunteers9@gmail.com) and she will promptly remove you from the group.

If you send us a prayer request for someone, please remember to send an update on that person we are praying for.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school has finally resumed, albeit virtually for now. Our first classes took place on Sunday, August 23 at 9am via Zoom.

During the worship service on this day Pastor Bimen installed our Sunday school teachers: Liz Dawson (Christ Ed Chair, preK-5), Matt Hoehner (preK-5), Roger Kissling (6th-8th grade), Pastor Elisa (9th-12th grade), Pastor Bimen (Young Adult/Family class), Mike Kull (Adult Class), Becky Miller (Adult Class) and all those who will be assisting in these classes throughout the year.

Each week a reminder will be sent out with the pre-K through 12th grade Zoom meeting link. Once the kids are brought together for a quick hello and a song or two they will head into grade level breakout rooms, each monitored by their appropriate teacher.

## HAVING FUN WITH HIS ONE & ONLY SON

We have been having lots of fun with Bendy Jesus on our Facebook page. He has been seen in nature, in lots of God sightings and doing random acts of kindness. We will be putting together a gallery of all His adventures on our website, be on the look out for it. Here are just a couple of His exploits of late...



## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

There are no new updates for the Call Committee. We have not received any new candidates from the Synod. 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.

## WELCA UPDATE

Normally we would meet on Tuesday, September 8; however Covid-19 and all restrictions associated with it will prevent us from meeting at this time. Hopefully soon we will be able to meet in person again. In the meantime, read your Gather magazine and share your thoughts with other women in our group or with friends.

Due to Covid-19 we have canceled the Craft Fair for this year. It will be held on the third Saturday in October 2021.

In older news, Pastor Bimen was given \$500 in gift cards to be used to help others in need.

Kathie Armstrong has mailed 4 quilts to Lutheran World Relief.

## PROPERTY UPDATE

Work has begun on the church bell tower. If you have driven past the church you may have seen the work being done. It is hard to see in the



# SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

We will begin to share monthly birthdays and anniversaries. Please make sure you share these important dates with us.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Carolyn Phillips
9/3	Bud Spalding
9/7	Scott Walker
9/8	Teran Winskye
9/9	Lainey Pfalzgraf David Saleh
9/11	Tara Banghart
9/12	Matt Hoehner Doug Kull
9/13	Alex Casey Kennedy Hoehner
9/17	Jennifer Feldspausch
9/19	Walter Feldt
9/20	Rev. Bob Anderson
9/22	Kristen Hoehner
9/23	Robinn Barmore Jean Eisen Ginny Jones
9/24	Betty Graff Nina Hallum Gavin Kissling Petra Limbong Chloe Winskye
9/28	Nate Ribble
9/30	Buck Murphy Shirley Williamson

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/3	Greg & Yuki Moeck Linda & Terry Tewell
9/5	Sue & Ron Fulmore
9/10	Kathy & Curt Sigdestad
9/12	Beverly & Tom Gilore Darlene & Brian Zibert
9/14	Alice & Bud Spalding Shirley & Dave Williamson
9/23	Barbara & Ron Morgan
9/24	Beverly & Kirby Rhines

A graphic with the words "happy birthday!" in a bubbly, colorful font. The letters are blue and green with small circles at the ends of the strokes. There are small red and blue confetti dots scattered around the text.A graphic with the words "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY" in a colorful, blocky font. The letters are in various colors (red, yellow, blue, green). There are colorful fireworks and balloons (pink, blue, red) around the text.

# BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH

Sunday, August 23 was a day jam packed with fun at Christ Lutheran Church! The pastors hosted a Drive Thru Backpack Blessing and the GIFT Youth hosted a car wash to raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in July 2022. There was also a picnic for folks to visit. It was a great day!





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.