

THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2021



9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299

502-267-5082



The Spirit immediately drove Jesus into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days and tempted by Satan. He was there with the wild beast and the angels waited on him” (Mark 1:12)

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

We are now in the middle of our 40 days of Lent leading to Good Friday and Easter. Our gospel on the first Sunday of Lent set the tone about that journey when Jesus, after his baptism, was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness and was there for forty days. One of Mark's Gospel's characters is that he doesn't get much into the detail. It states something and moves to the next and lets the audience fill the blank. When the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and was tempted by Satan for instance; it doesn't explain the kinds of temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness like other synoptic gospels do. The gospel also says that He was there with the wild beasts. We don't know what kinds of wild beasts were there and what he did with them; whether he tamed them or fought with them or if the wild beasts are merely just an analogy, we don't know. Now, the angels waited on him.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.christlutheranlouisville.com

Lead Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong

Associate Pastor - Rev. Richard Gianzero

Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

Not sure what type of provisions the angels provided for him; whether the angels brought him food each day just like God sent a robin to bring bread to Elijah; or how about the drink and so forth? Which by the way the gospel doesn't say anything that he was fasting, however, we imagine he was. There are a lot of blanks that need to be filled. But those blanks help us to imagine what they might be and what they might mean for us. What Mark cares so much about is that those events did take place and that God was involved in all of them.

One of the things that I would imagine Jesus was doing in the wilderness for forty days was that he was doing a lot of praying, thinking and planning before he begins his public ministry and all the things that he needs to accomplish in his mission making sure it is in accordance to God's plan. It is almost like a work plans retreat.

Our forty days of wilderness journey goes beyond the forty days of Lent; we have been in the wilderness with this pandemic for a year now and we are still not quite through with it yet. We thank God that so far the infection rates continue to go down and more people are being vaccinated, we hope and pray that we will soon return to our 'new' normal. I'm sure, during our wilderness journey, you too have done lots of praying, thinking, reflecting and perhaps some planning of what to do next for your life and in our case for the life and ministry of the church.

One thing that we will face as we begin to return to our 'new normal' at church is change. Our world and our church will never be the same again after this pandemic. Our need for change occurred even before this pandemic began, but with this pandemic our need for change more crucial. We need change in order to survive and thrive; more importantly that we may proclaim the good news of the Gospel and to make Christ Known more effectively.

In response to all the changing in the world and in our church, especially the continuing trends in membership and diversity, the ELCA recently released the data from an innovation readiness survey; the ELCA made these recommendations for the church to consider:

- ✠ Prioritize the engagement of new, young and diverse people.
- ✠ Unite all expressions of the church (congregations, synods and the churchwide organization) into one church—together.

- † Align decision-making, accountability and leadership where best suited.
- † Operate in agile, flexible and speedy ways.
- † Act based on data and measurable impact.
- † Eliminate silos and divisions.

As for our church, a few things that we need to keep in mind to consider in our short term as we begin to resume into our life and ministry as I shared with the council this month:

- † To connect with our members. We are considering contacting all our members to find out how they are doing. By doing so, we may be able to support and provide for your needs.
- † To connect Pr. Rich and his family and welcome them into our church family and into the life and ministry of our church.
- † To get all committees, with the help of our council liaisons, to meet and set some goals again.
- † To get our Dream Team to meet again to continue their works with our building usage that will meet the needs of our members and community in our mission of making Christ Known.
- † To get our online service equipment installed properly and professionally that we may continue to enhance our online service to our members and the world.

Serving Christ with you,



Pr. Bimen Limbong

COUNCIL UPDATE

I wish to thank the congregation for the patience, commitment and engagement during 2020. As we have turned the council calendar to 2021, I think it is important to take a moment to celebrate, thank and acknowledge the congregation and leaders for supporting CLC during the past year. A special thanks to Yvonne Gallahue, Ron Skelton, and Pastor Elisa Owen for their work to ensure we live up to the ideal we have set of “Making Christ Known.”

For the year 2021, we are excited to explore the possibilities, changes and excitement that present themselves as we are able to return to in-person worship and restrictions are able to be removed as we continue to recover from Covid. We are appreciative of Pr. Bimen’s leadership in these trying times and are looking forward to the beginning of Pr. Rich’s tenure as Associate Pastor. We also are undergoing some changes on the council as Steven Gray and Ginny Hallum are beginning their terms. I am grateful to serve an additional year as President while Sarah Pryor has accepted the role of Vice President. Jennifer Kemnitz is continuing as Secretary and we are blessed to have Tony White and Karen Schuette to serve as Treasurer and Financial Secretary, respectively.

Council Business:

† Election of Officers:

Roger Kissling, President
Sarah Pryor, Vice President
Jennifer Kemnitz, Secretary
Tony White, Treasurer
Karen Schuette, Financial Secretary

† Resuming In-person Services:

Council passed a motion to host In-Person Services beginning on February 28th.

Meetings in the building are welcomed and encouraged. Contact the office and Pr. Bimen to schedule this and make sure the appropriate protocols are being followed.

† Pr. Rich Update:

Pr Rich and family have arrived in town. He is still on schedule to begin work on March 8th. Morgan Bowman and Steven Gray will assist Pr. Rich in his transition. If you have questions or ideas at this time, please contact them or use the church council email. More information about the installation, and meet and greet opportunities will follow.

† March Madness Cleaning Supply Drive:

To support JAM the Busy Women’s Bible Study and Social Ministry Committee will be hosting a drive through event to encourage people to donate cleaning supplies for those in need.

† Building Updates:

Updates are being completed to rooms for youth rooms (room 8) and general cleaning and updating (rooms 6 and 7) so these rooms are prepared as it becomes safe for people to meet and the need arises for use.

† Next Council Meeting:

Thursday March 18th at 7:00.

Council Members also serve as liaisons to the various church committees. If you would like more information, or have some ideas you can reach out to them, or to the committee chairperson. For 2021, the following people are currently serving as chair and liaison of the church committees:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Council Liaison</u>
Christian Education	Liz Dawson	Hillary Mitoraj
Communications	Elizabeth Walker	Jennifer Kemnitz Sarah Pryor
Endowment	TBD	Roger Kissling
Evangelism	Josh DeWar	Morgan Bowman Sarah Pryor
Fellowship Planning	Bonnie Kroening	Barry Barmore Ginny Hallum
Finance	Mike Kull	Bud Goss
Global Mission	Tom Farrar	Mike Trautmann
Green Team	Ann Wade	Mike Trautmann
Memorial	Becky Miller	Barry Barmore
Property	Dale Breitenstein	Bud Goss
Small Group Ministry	Various	Morgan Bowman
Social Ministry	Roger Miller	Jean Eisen
Stewardship	Bill Gibson	Steven Gray
WELCA	Bonnie Kroening	Ginny Hallum
Worship	Becky Miller	Jennifer Kemnitz
Youth Ministry	Elizabeth Walker	Lexie Delain

** We always encourage your feedback. If you have suggestions, ideas, concerns, or questions we would like to hear from you. It is our goal to have a council page on the website so you see updates as they are being done as well as provide feedback about your needs. In the meantime, please contact us by emailing CLC.Louisville.Council@gmail.com.

UPDATE FROM RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

The task force met February 4th to discuss the status of in-person gatherings at church. Distribution of Covid19 vaccines is well underway now and all community metrics have shown continuous improvement since early January. These positive developments, paired with a desire to respect the results of the congregational survey (the majority in favor of re-opening), the task force unanimously agreed to recommend that council approve re-opening the building for in-person worship and group event use. This recommendation was submitted for council's consideration at their February 18th meeting, and the council voted in favor of our recommendation.

Our first return to in-person services will take place Sunday, February 28. We'll begin by operating using the same precautions as before, outlined in our [What to Expect](#) document—allowing up to 50 worshippers (roughly 25% capacity), requiring masks, temperature checks, and spaced out seating. As before, a registration link for each 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.

Groups may also resume gathering at church as desired, following same protocols of mask use and social distancing. We ask everyone to sign in when entering the building and notify Pastor Bimen or the office if you test positive for Covid19 within 2 weeks of meeting at church, to assist with contact tracing.

While we endeavor to make the church a safe environment for all, online alternatives will continue to be offered and encouraged for anyone who may be uncomfortable with in-person gatherings or required safety protocols. Please contact Pastor Bimen, or any members of the task force if you have questions or concerns. Peace be with you!

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Sarah Pryor

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update Through January 2021

Expected Receipts: \$40,382.00

Actual Receipts: \$35,029.00

Thank you to January Counters: Malissia, Jim and Walker Bell.

Memorials were received in February in memory of Bud Spalding.

*****PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR
ONLINE GIVING*****



SCAN ME

CLC CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Amy and Ken Schneider! The two got married in a small ceremony on January 22, 2021! We are so very happy for these two wonderful members of our Christ Lutheran family. Please share in their happiness!

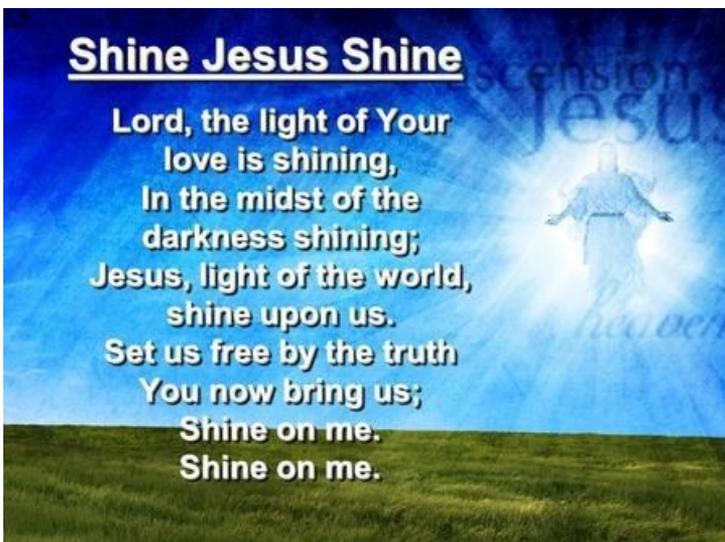


MUSIC NOTES

Our Sunday hymn-singers deserve a big round of applause for their very large contribution to Christ Lutheran's virtual (and occasionally in-person) services. There are six pairs: Dale and Kathleen Breitenstein, Jane and Tom Farrar, Hannah and Marti Gibson, Becky and Roger Miller, Molly and Sarah Pryor, and Lisa and Shirley Williamson. We all pray for an end to Covid 19 for many reasons, including having our choir back to lead worship, but in the meantime we're grateful for these folks so willing to help out!

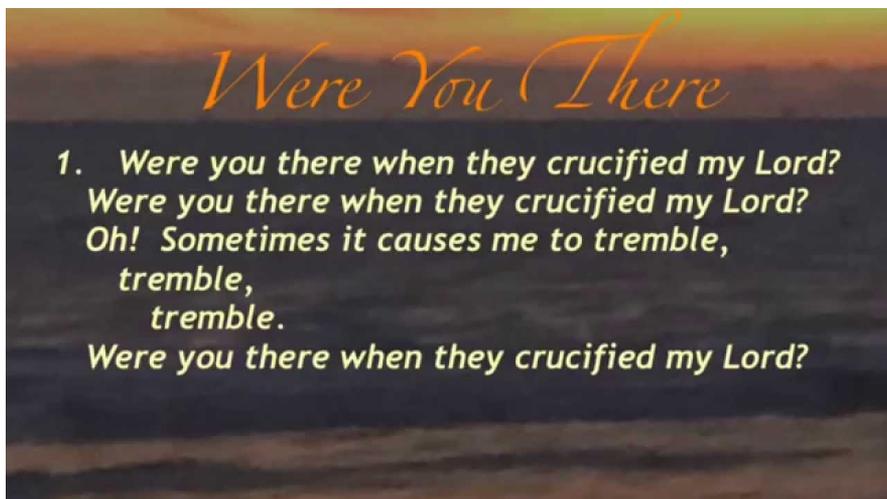
This month I shine the spotlight on Ron Morgan's favorite hymn, *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671). Even though it is included in the *Witness* section of our hymnal, it certainly qualifies as an Epiphany hymn with its emphasis on “light” and “shining.” In the idiom of a popular solo song, it uses two tessituras (the most comfortable part of a vocal or instrumental range) – a higher one for the refrain, and a lower one in the more throaty part of our range for the two stanzas. Both the music and the text were created in 1987 by Graham Kendrick (b. 1950 in England) who also wrote *Here Is Bread* (ELW 483). Mr. Kendrick “studied to be a teacher, but in 1972 he became a contemporary folk-rock singer and songwriter who got his training in evangelistic coffee bars.” (Isn't it amazing that our hymns come from such a wide variety of sources and people!!)

The above information comes from *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by Paul Westermeyer and published by Augsburg Fortress.



Our Lenten hymn spotlight this month shines on the beloved African American spiritual *Were You There* (ELW 353). As is the case with just about all spirituals it wasn't "written" by anyone but grew out of the miserable life of the slaves made more tolerable by their singing while they worked, worshiped and rested. The structure invites a single singer to ask the questions and the whole assembly to respond with the trembling refrain "O sometimes it causes..." Originally published in William E. Barton's *Old Plantation Songs* (1899), it had four stanzas: "Were you there when ... 1) they crucified my Lord; 2) they nailed him to the cross/tree; 3) they pierced him in the side 4) the sun refused to shine." *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, as does many other hymnals, adds one more: "Were you there when they laid him in the tomb." Our hymnal also uses the word "tree" in stanza 2, which for those who sang it reminded them of lynching and added yet another dimension. Interestingly the mournful tune is in a major key – not the minor key usually associated with sadness or mourning.

The above information comes from *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by Paul Westermeyer and published by Augsburg Fortress.



saved from <http://www.HymnSite.com>

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	
	1	2 9am Tuesday Friends 7pm Property Cmte Virtual Mtg	3 7pm Lenten Worship@Home In Person
7 9am Sunday School Virtual 10:00am—In Person & Worship@Home w/ Communion 1:15pm Confirmation	8 Pastor Rich Gianzero's First Day with CLC 	9 9am Tuesday Friends	10 7pm Lenten Worship@Home In Person
14 9am Sunday School Virtual 10:00am - In Person & -Worship@Home w/ Communion Daylight Savings Time	15	16 9am Tuesday Friends	17 7pm Lenten Worship@Home In Person
21 9am Sunday School Virtual 10:00am - In Person & -Worship@Home w/ Communion 1:15pm Confirmation Class - Virtual	22	23 9am Tuesday Friends	24 7pm Lenten Worship@Home In Person
28 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday School Virtual 10am - In Person & Worship@Home w/Communion Easter Eggstravaganza 	29	30 9am Tuesday Friends	31 7pm Lenten Worship@Home In Person

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ome & In	4	5	6
ome & In	11	12	13
ome & In	18 7pm Council Virtual Mtg	19 5:30-8pm JAM Spring Cleaning Drive	20 First Day of Spring 
ome & In	25	26	27
ome & In			

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Rich Gianzero will begin in his role as Associate Pastor for CLC on Monday, March 8. He will preach on Sunday, March 14. Two of our Council members are working with Pastor Rich as he makes this transition into our church. Please join us in welcoming him and his family into our Christ Lutheran family.

If you would like to send cards of welcome, please send to the church office. The staff will make sure that he receives them on Monday.

This is such an exciting time for Christ Lutheran church in so many ways. We could not be happier to have Pastor Rich and his family as part of it.



TUESDAY FRIENDS

Tuesday Friends have resumed meeting on Tuesday mornings at 9am in Rooms 9 & 10. If you would like to join these ladies while you crochet, knit, quilt, needlepoint; feel free to join them. Crafting is not required though, if you just want an opportunity to chat with friends, this group will welcome you with open arms, Covid safe of course.

MAKING CHRIST CONNECTIONS: Connected to One Another
Meet Christ Lutheran member, **Dr. Karen Westbrooks!**



Member Since:

2013, after finding Christ Lutheran Church in her neighborhood. Having no biological family who are members of CLC, her church family really matters to Karen.

Work:

Dr. Westbrooks is a consecrated Lutheran Deaconess, as well as a licensed marriage and family therapist, specializing in individual, couple and family therapy. She's the Director of Jeffersontown Counseling Services, which is located in the brick house at CLC, although it's been operating online during the pandemic.

Play: Music, reading, and writing

Favorite Hymn:

"Beautiful Savior," because it brings back a childhood memory of practicing the alto line with my mom at old home Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO.

What's a memory at CLC that is particularly special to you?

The special memories for me are the baptisms and the concerts: organ concert and choral concert.

Sharing Time & Talents:

Karen has served on the CLC church council, being elected by the congregation after showing a leadership interest. She encourages anyone who is interested in the church council to make their interest known to one or more members of council, as they will eventually need someone to replace them.

Why do you go to church?

I grew up in the church, so not only is going to church a natural part of my life, it's the breath of life for me. I go because I love Jesus. I have also been living as a consecrated Lutheran Deaconess since 1983 which means that I "serve the Lord" seven days a week.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Several of our members have been busy beavers working to update our Associate Pastor office, in anticipation of the arrival of Pastor Rich. They have brought the office into the 21st century in just over a month. Thank you to Marilyn & Ray Peak, Tammy Kissling, Mark Davis and Dale Breitenstein for your amazing time and talents. This will certainly be a welcoming office for Pastor Rich to set up shop.



FEED LOUISVILLE

Christ Lutheran is still partnering with Feed Louisville to help feed the homeless community in J'town and the surrounding area. Every Saturday volunteers come to church to cook a meal for 50 individuals.

Volunteers are always needed. If you wish to volunteer to prepare a meal at church please sign up using this link: bit.ly/FeedLouCLC . If you want to volunteer but are in need of a "kitchen boss" - someone to oversee the meal - please reach out to Tammy Kissling, tlkissling@gmail.com or Josh DeWar, joshuadewar@gmail.com . All questions should also be directed to Tammy or Josh.

Don't know what to do with all of the plastic silverware packets you get with your take out orders? Donate them to Feed Louisville, they are perfect for us to distribute with the meals we make every week.

Saturday March 20th is the Middle School Youth's turn to make the meal for Feed Louisville. If your child is interested in participating please sign him/her up using the sign up link or contact Tammy Kissling at tlkissling@gmail.com.

UPDATE

On Thursday, February 18 Feed Louisville reached out to Christ Lutheran requesting 150 meals for individuals that had been given shelter in hotels due to the inclement weather. Despite the short notice, Christ Lutheran jumped into action and provided 150 chicken and rice meals. Once again making Christ known, with fun and smiles!!



MARCH MADNESS EVENT

“Spring Cleaning Drive” for JAM

March Madness is just around the corner. Which conference will win the Women’s and Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament? To get into the spirit of the season, the Social Ministry Committee and the Busy Women’s Bible Study Group are joining together to host a “Spring Cleaning Drive” for JAM.

By donating items to your favorite conference, you’ll help predict who will win the tournaments. Donations can be dropped off at church Monday through Wednesday during the church’s office hours. When church is “open”, donations can be placed on the designated tables in the solarium. The culminating event will be Friday, March 19 between 5:30-8pm when there will be an opportunity for you to drop off your donations via a drive-by drop-off at church. We will be glad to see you in person!

What to bring: JAM has requested items for “Spring Cleaning”. Any household cleaning supplies would be most appreciated, i.e., laundry cleaners, bathroom cleaning items, kitchen cleaning, magic erasers, stain removers, sponges, brushers, window cleaner, etc. If you’d prefer, we have personal shoppers available to do your shopping for you and take care of all logistics should you be able to donate financially.

Goal: To collect 100 donated items for JAM.

Champion: The winning conference will be announced (or posted) during the announcements on Sunday, March 21.

Possible Conferences: SEC, Big TEN, ACC and Other (all other conferences included here)

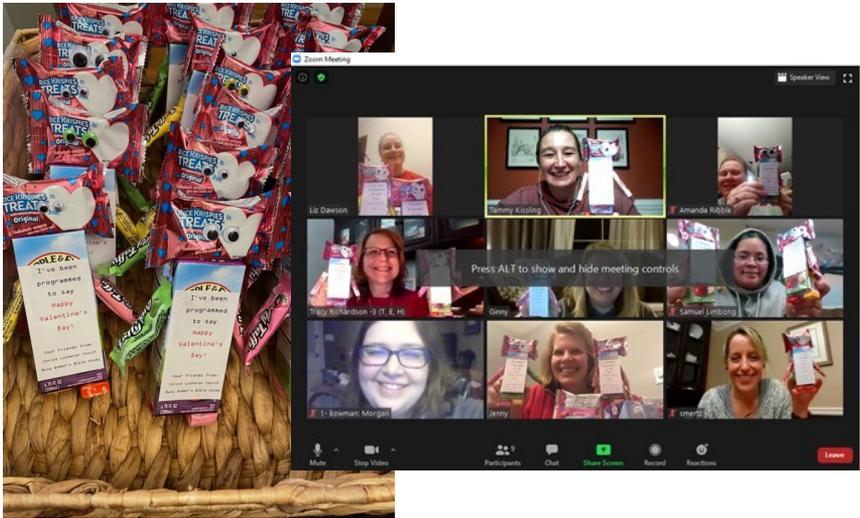
If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Kissling or Roger Miller.



BUSY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Service Project

The women of the Busy Women's Bible Study met virtually on Friday, February 5 and worked on a service project together. Armed with candy and their glue guns Morgan Bowman, Liz Dawson, Ginny Hallum, Jean Eisen, Tammy Kissling, Berliana Limbong, Sarah Mertz, Jenny Nixon, Tracy Richardson & Liz Walker made 180 robot valentines for the children at Uspiritus Brooklawn Campus. While the gals wished they could have met in person, the evening was full of fun connecting with each other and making Christ known at the same time.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please let us know how we can pray for you. Just call the church office, 267-5082, and we will send out a prayer request. Christ Lutheran has some fierce prayer warriors always ready and willing to lift you up in prayer.



CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC: Old Testament</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
March		
14	War & Peace	
28	No Confirmation	Spring Break
April		
4	No Confirmation	Easter Sunday
11	War & Peace	
25	Sex & Love	
May		
2	Ten Commandments	
16	The Apostles Creed Overview	
30	No Confirmation	Memorial Day
June		
7	The Bible & My Life	
17	Rite of Confirmation	

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Palm Sunday is March 28 and we are hoping to celebrate our Annual Easter Eggstravaganza and Egg Hatch on this day. The plan is to have the entire event outside (weather permitting). We will have cars socially distanced with folks handing out candy filled eggs to our children. Stay tuned for more details about the celebration.

Please email Liz Walker, clcvolunteers9@gmail.com, if you would like to provide your car and candy filled eggs and pass out to kids. In order to make this event happen we will need volunteers.



MARCH MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays		March Anniversaries	
03/03	Samuel Colbert	03/20	Germaine & Kenneth Overstreet
03/07	Mylo McDonald		
03/08	Shelley Tewell		
03/10	Zachary Kenizter Brent Selch		
03/12	Bob Wagley		
03/17	Donna Jackman		
03/18	Raymond Peak		
03/27	Molly Turpen		
03/28	Kathy Kull Tim Straub		
03/29	Bonnie Kroening Alita White		
03/31	David Gibson		

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



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.