THE MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2021

9212 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown, Kentucky 40299 502-267-5082

"Look at my hands and my feet and see that it is I, myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as you see that I have…These are my words that I have spoken with you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the Laws of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures…" (Luke 24:39, 44).

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

We are still in the season of Easter. Just as the disciples and all the first witnesses of the resurrection, we too are still trying to make sense out of Jesus' resurrection. I am sure the disciples were able to make sense of Jesus' public ministry; his teaching, preaching, the miracles he performed, his triumphal entry to Jerusalem, his crucifixion and even his death for they witnessed such things before just as we might do too. But the resurrection of Jesus from the dead seems to be a hard concept for them to understand, just as it is still a hard concept for us to understand today.

One thing that we learn from the Easter story is that the life of the disciples after Jesus' resurrection is never the same again. Yes, Jesus was resurrected from the dead as a whole. He is not resurrected and changed to become a disembodied spirit. *continued on pg. 2*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.christlutheranlouisville.com
Lead Pastor - Rev. Bimen Limbong
Associate Pastor - Rev. Richard Gianzero
Director of Music - Ann Colbert Wade

In fact, He invites his disciples to touch and see his hands and his feet and even eats the broiled fish in their presence to convince them that it is Jesus with his resurrected body. Except things are different now, still the same body but it has a different function. He is going to go ahead of them to Galilee, the place that he started his ministry but he will no longer be physically present with his disciples and do the ministry that he used to do. In fact, he prepares his disciples to become his witnesses in the world, to become his body, if you will, in the world. I am sure the disciples wish to return to their 'normal' life again with Jesus before the holy week, but the Holy week and Easter has changed their life forever. They have to learn how to move on with their life in their 'fourth day' and emerge into their 'new normal'.

It has been a long Lent and Good Friday season for us with this COVID-19 pandemic. We have felt as if we are inside the tomb covered by the heavy stone. Now we are able to see the sign of Easter, the stone that used to cover the entrance of the tomb has propped open and we are able to smell the flowers that our loved ones put in the tomb. However, it is easy to get accustomed to the darkness and death inside the tomb and to refuse to leave the empty tomb to embrace the new life.

We are the Easter people. We believe that Christ has risen from the dead and we believe in our resurrection with Christ too. There are things that we need to keep holding onto; our faith and fellowship with God and one another even more. But at the same time, we need to let go of things so that we have room for new things that Christ has set before us and trust that God will continue to help and guide us along the way in our Eater journey. As the Apostle Paul said, *"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14).*

Serving Christ with you,

Pr. Bimen Limbong

Dear Ones,

I keep thinking about Pr. Bimen's sermon from the 3rd Sunday of Easter: "you are witnesses of these things." μάρτυρας is the Greek word for "witness" in the New Testament. In English we write it as *martyros* and derive the English word "martyr" from this biblical word. "You are martyrs of these things," Jesus said of His resurrection and life, teachings and call to discipleship.

What exactly do we, in our time, bear witness to; who do we bear witness to? And how do we bear that witness?

For Christian people the death and resurrection of Jesus represents more than an abstract philosophy of religion. The witness is tangible flesh and blood. The flesh and blood of Jesus bear witness to our call to Christian discipleship which we experience in the sacrament of baptism - "buried with Christ and risen with Him." It is in the dying to self that we rise to new life.

In the new life we must connect with the flesh and blood, the real world we live and breathe in. This is the essence of an incarnational ethic: that Christ became human, was lynched and rose again in His body so that His body (the church) might bear His wounds in the world. This theology, deeply biblical and revived in central Europe through the Lutheran movement, lives because it connects with human beings. It shows up in any and every place where "the shadow of death" looms offering life. Life through the witness of flesh and blood - where His body goes there goes the witness.

Somewhere in the unholy marriage of the European church and civil authority, when the church adopted the form and bureaucracy of the failing Roman Empire, Christ's body chained itself to abstract paradigms which denied the flesh and blood, the incarnation (which means "taking on flesh") of Jesus' witness, the witness of His body. Since then, as Martin Luther pointed out in various writings, the church teeters between preserving institutionalism and bearing witness.

In my first 40 days of ministry in our life together at *Christ Lutheran* I continue to get excited about bearing witness together. I've heard phrases like "reopening the church," but the church, as μάρτυρας, never closed. Different and innovative ways of bearing witness emerged.

The building, like Jesus' tomb, might be empty, but the living Christ moves outside the tomb, and outside the building, and we are witnesses of these things.

I remain sad about how church structures haven't been filled during this pandemic. But the truth is they weren't filled before the pandemic either. And we are witnesses of these things. The church, Jesus' Body, is learning that "church" means being called out in order to go out and bear witness. And we are witnesses of these things. The life of Christ shines most prominently in times of trouble, where the shadow of death looms. And we are witnesses of these things. The world has changed, and so may the church by an honest accounting of where innovation and creativity for ministry meet in order to share the gospel. And we are witnesses of these things.

The church of the 21st-century cannot sit inside the tomb, empty though it may be. It must face outward and bear witness. The church has always thrived when it's focus and focal point remained on Christ the Crucified - the wisdom and strength of God among us. In the 21st-century the church has tools and technology for bearing witness that our forebears in the faith couldn't imagine. The reach of the church is unlimited because of the tools at its disposal. The reach of a church will remain limited by a proclivity to preserve and reach in instead of reaching out. And we are witnesses of these things.

The tender words of the Apostle Paul, to his protege Timothy, come to mind when I think about bearing witness in the 21st-century. May we embrace the words of the Apostle and consider how we are witnesses of "these things:"

For this reason I [Paul] *remind you* [Timothy] *to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace.* (1 Timothy 1:6-9)

Peace,
Pastor Rich

. MUSIC NOTES

A big bravo and thanks to our singers who gave such a valuable service during Lent. In addition to the six Sundays (which took two singers each), Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (which also took two each), we had five mid-week services (which used five singers each). That adds up to a total of 45 singers, and because we don't have nearly that many most of them had **at least** double duty. We applaud Dale and Kathleen Breitenstein, Jane and Tom Farrar, Yvonne Gallahue, Hannah and Marti Gibson, Hannah Limbong, Becky and Roger Miller, Molly and Sarah Pryor, and Lisa and Shirley Williamson. It truly takes a lot of "behind-the-scenes" folks to prepare for and present our worship services!

Because May this year is literally full of festivals (Easter Sundays, Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity) I have chosen an interesting hymn to spotlight this month. *Hail Thee, Festival Day* (ELW 394) has the option to celebrate three of them (Holy Trinity is omitted) in Stanzas 1 and 2. Stanzas 3-6 remain the same for all. Another pretty unusual feature is that the odd numbered stanzas have one melody, the even numbered ones have a different tune characterized by triplets, and there is a refrain as well. The text is from a fifty-five (!) stanza poem by Venatius Honorius Fortunatus in the 6th century. The considerably newer tune by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, *Salva Festa Dies,* was published in 1906 and obviously written just for this text.

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

FINANCE

Current Expense and Benevolence Update
Through March 2021

Online Giving

SCAN ME

Expected Receipts: $107,050.00
Actual Receipts: $133,977.00

Thanks to giving from IRAs in the first quarter we appear to be ahead. An estimate of this advance giving and other gifts would indicate church envelopes are (-$5,000) below expectation and Activity Room Rental is (-$6,600) below expectation.

Thanks to May Counters. Dale Breitenstein, Angela Adams, and Shannon Morrison.

OPEN MEETING

Saturday Service Discussion

An open meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 5 at 7pm to discuss the future of Saturday services. We will offer an in person and virtual option for anyone who wishes to attend. The link for the meeting will be sent out via email. We hope to see you then.

WORHSIP SERVICE UPDATE

Beginning on Sunday, May 2 we will resume two worship services at 8:30am and 11am in person. We will continue to live stream our service, however only the 11am service will be live streamed. We will continue to live stream on our Facebook page, YouTube channel and Zoom.

Each service will have capacity at 50 attendees. Those attending the services will be required to wear a mask the entire service. We will no longer take temperatures prior to entering the building, however we ask the individuals that are attending be vigilant in their own symptom / health check.

BUSY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Busy Women's Bible Study will meet on Friday, May 14 at 7pm. The group will meet in person in Rooms 1 &2. If you would like to join the group please contact Tammy Kissling or just show up on Friday night. This is a great group of women who offer each other support and love in a fun environment.

CLC CARD MINISTRY

Did you know that we have a card ministry at Christ Lutheran? It's simple, all you have to do is send a card or two to our members who are on our prayer list or in nursing facilities or other members who you just haven't seen in a while. We have many cards available for individuals to pick up located in the Solarium; or you can use your own. There are also preprinted address labels for those members in nursing facilities or homebound. You can drop your cards off at the church office and we will mail them for you.

This is such an easy way of making Christ known. A simple greeting card letting someone know you are thinking about them can make a huge impact on their day.

WATERSTEP MINISTRY

We are still collecting shoes for our partnership with WaterStep. Water-Step is an organization that collects shoes to help provide clean water for places around the world that need it.

Just drop your shoes off at church. There is a collection box in the Solarium. If you prefer not to come in just call the church office to arrange for a time to drop them off.

WaterStep
Save Lives with Safe Water

MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	
30	31 OFFICE CLOSED		
2 **8:30am In Person Worship** 9:45am Sunday School via Zoom **11am In Person & Worship@Home** 1:15pm Confirmation Cls	3	4 9:30am Tuesday Friends	5 9:30am We Friends 7pm Saturd Mtg
9 **8:30am In Person Worship** **11am In Person & Worship@Home**	10	11 9:30am Tuesday Friends 7pm Property Cmte Mtg	12 9:30am We Friends 7pm Worsh
16 **8:30am In Person Worship** 9:45am Sunday School Hybrid / Zoom - Last Class until Fall **11am In Person & Worship@Home**	17	18 9:30am Tuesday Friends	19 9:30am We Friends
23 **Youth Sunday** **8:30am In Person Worship** **11am In Person & Worship@Home**	24	25 9:30am Tuesday Friends	26 9:30am We Friends

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1
dnesday ay Service	6 6pm Youth Cmte Mtg	7	8 2-6pm Mike Selch Memorial Service
dnesday ip Cmte Mtg	13	14 7pm Busy Women Bible Study	15 10am Visitation for Cheryle Steiner 11am Funeral for Cheryle Steiner
dnesday	20 7pm Council Virtual Mtg	21	22 11am Bud Spalding Memorial Service Youth Sunday Rehearsal Youth Outdoor Movie
dnesday	27	28	29

WELCA NEWS
TUESDAY FRIENDS

The ladies of Tuesday Friends have been very busy making quilts. This week they donated several of the quilts to a couple of health facilities in J'town. Pastor Rich and Shirley Williamson took quilts to J'town Rehab and Kathy Armstrong took quilts to Signature, a nursing facility near church. We greatly appreciate the work our Tuesday Friends do each week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please let us know how we can pray for you. Just call the church office, 267-5082, or email us at **church_office@christlutheranlouisville.com** 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.

MAKING CHRIST CONNECTIONS: Connected to One Another
Meet Christ Lutheran member, **Ed Greaves**!

Member Since:
Ed has been a life-long Lutheran and joined CLC about 15-20 years ago.

Work:
Before retiring 32 years ago, Ed was an Estimator and Project Manager for Fenton Electric, who did contract work primarily for GE, as well as the Ford and Corvette plants.

Play:
Ed is a history buff, reads the Bible most every day, and is known to enjoy a cigar and beer on occasion.

Sharing Time & Talents:
Over the years, Ed spent a lot of time on Property and Grounds Committees, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and also served on Church Council and Finance Committee.

Favorite Hymns:
Raised by a single mother, Ed attended church with his grandparents back when the service was held in German. While he couldn't understand the words they were singing, there's a German hymn that still stops him in his tracks every time he hears it, as it reminds him so much of his grandmother.

Now he has a fondness for the hymn *On Eagle's Wings*. Coming from somewhat challenging, humble beginnings, he can look at all the triumphs and trials in his life—blessed with a marriage of 70 years to a wonderful woman, raising 6 children together who remain close-knit while leading successful lives across the country, enjoying a fulfilling career, and even through serving in the Navy during WWII and surviving cancer—when he hears the lyrics to *On Eagle's Wings*, he can feel how God has raised him up throughout his life, and enabled him to soar.

Why do you go to church?
I just get complete satisfaction out of it. If I didn't go, I'd be miserable all week. I really enjoy attending our Sunday School, where we do Bible study, especially the New Testament.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The Wednesday Friends and Property Committee have been busy lately improving the landscaping around the building and helping to rehab the former preschool rooms. This includes cleaning the woodwork and ceilings in rooms 6, 7, and 8, repairing/replacing drywall and painting the walls. The sink has been replaced in room 7 and soon the sink will be replaced in room 8. New flooring is in the process of being installed in room 8 as well. The small bathroom in room 6 is being made usable again, and it should no longer leak!

The new outdoor digital sign (part of the capital campaign) is in the process of being installed. Hopefully it will be installed by the time you get to read the Messenger!

The overgrown boxwoods outside of the Worship Entrance have disappeared and new Green Velvet Boxwoods along with Abelia Kaleidoscope shrubs have found a new home there. The flowering trees and shrubs have been beautiful. We hope that many have enjoyed their beauty!

None of this would look nice, if the grass wasn't mowed! A big thanks to Rod Hester for mowing and to Roger Miller and Raymond Peak for weed eating the ditches, and to Dale Breitenstein for mowing the cemetery.

There is always work to do, picking up trash, weeding, trimming, laughing, keeping lights shining, cleaning, plus whatever needs doing, so if you would like to help, please join the Wednesday Friends at 9:30am most Wednesdays or join the property committee on Tuesday, May 11, at 7pm.

FEED LOUISVILLE

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in April. We appreciate you giving up your Saturday mornings to help us in our mission of Making Christ Known through love and food!

We continue to need volunteers to keep this ministry going and now that we are relaxing some of our COVID restrictions you no longer need to be part of a single family unit, so grab a few friends and sign up. What about a Saturday morning committee meeting?

To sign up use the link **bit.ly/FeedLouCLC**. Feel free to contact Tammy Kissling or Josh Dewar if you would like more information or have any questions.

Mark your calendars - Saturday, May 15 is the Middle School youth's turn to make the meal.

YOUTH LED SERVICE

Pentecost Sunday, May 23 our Youth will lead both our 8:30am & 11am worship services. Planning has already begun, but it is NOT too late to join the fun. Contact Pastor Rich if your child wants to be a part of this exciting event.

There will be a rehearsal day on Saturday, May 23. We will also end the day with an outdoor movie and snacks. RSVP by texting Tammy Kissling, 552-1104.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC: Old Testament	NOTES
May		
2	Ten Commandments Overview	Small Catechism
16	The Apostles Creed Overview	Small Catechism
30	No Confirmation	Summer Break until Fall
October		
31	Rite of Confirmation	Reformation Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

There are two more Sunday School classes on Sunday, May 2 and May 16. Classes will be offered hybrid / Zoom from 9:45am-10:30am between our worship services. . The year will end on Sunday, May 23 with our Youth Led Service. We encourage all youth to participate.

MAY MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
5/1	Carol Breitenstein	5/8	Marti & Bill Gibson
5/3	Hannah Limbong	5/9	Becky & Roger Miller
5/4	Emelyn Merchant	5/11	Kathleen & Dale Breitenstein Kristen & Matt Hoehner
5/5	Barbara Rowland	5/15	Deborah & William Scott
5/7	Walker Bell	5/17	Carolyn & Mike Phillips Martha & Jeffrey Hawkins
5/8	Mark Davis	5/18	Jean & Mike Barney
5/11	Indiana Dawson Pastor Bimen Limbong Cathy Skelton	5/22	Wendy & Larry Glenn
5/12	Lisa Huber	5/31	Tammy & Roger Kissling
5/13	Rhonda Trautman		
5/15	Beth Allgeier		
5/16	Dale Breitenstein		
5/17	Summer Carroll		
5/19	Alex Paul Emily Paul		
5/20	Sherri Hesler Liz Walker		
5/22	Mike Phillips		
5/24	Hayley Glenn Doris Henry		
5/25	Betty Payne Mary Peters		
5/27	Florence Bright		
5/31	James Dockins		

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

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: 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.*