



The Christ Times

MAY 2020
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A publication of Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Michigan



“I’m with you always ...” By Pastor Yeager

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Our family’s nightly routine before the kids head off to bed usually involves prayers and songs. When my girls have finished their dinner, they make their way to the living room so that Alex and I can put them into their pajamas. After that, we would usually spend the rest of the time relaxing through prayers and favorite hymns that they like from our hymnal. Later on, the kids would make their way to bed, and usually with a book or toy.

Now, my oldest daughter, being almost four years old, is very observant. And one night, as she is going to bed, she notices that her room didn’t have a cross in it like the living room; or mommy and daddy’s room. She was concerned. Because there was no physical cross that she could see, her room was suddenly a bit darker than what she wanted. And as I kissed her good night, she noticed the crucifix on my neck. She said, “Daddy, I want a cross with me.” I smiled, looked at her and said, “Elle, you do have a cross with you.” She said, “really?!” I said, “Yes, silly, you have a cross on your forehead and your heart.” While checking her forehead and heart, she said, “Does anyone else have a cross.” I said, “Oh yeah, a bunch of people wear the cross. And even if you don’t see it. We all carry the cross on our foreheads and hearts.” I continued, “you were given this cross in your baptism, and so was Sydney. So, you don’t have to be afraid when you go to bed in a dark room because you have the cross. And that means Jesus will be with you always.”

I said this to my daughter, not only to teach her a little bit about baptism, but also in hopes that the Gospel would bring light to a room that seemed so dark.

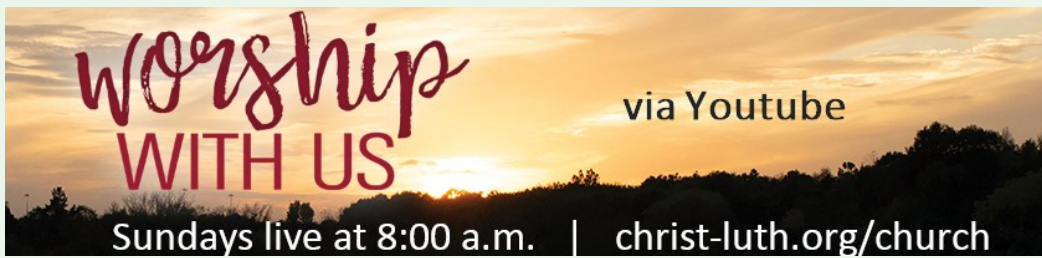
And so, I thought that I would bring these same words to all of God’s children here at Christ Lutheran Church. Because a world without the cross seems like a very dark and scary place. Especially during this current crisis that has befallen us. Whether it’s the virus or the economy, the future seems a bit scary to some people. And with so many things to be concerned about, sometimes we can lose sight of the cross. However, I would love to remind everyone, that you still bear the cross on your forehead and heart. And Christ is still with you. You are still God’s children. And as we go forward in the next few months, remember your baptism. Live in your baptism. Confess your sins and have confidence that our God has overcome the works of the devil and the evil plans that he plots throughout your lives. And remember this promise from our Risen LORD and savior Jesus Christ: **behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**

Dear Saints, take heart and know that your sins are forgiven. You have been marked in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The God of Heaven and Earth has placed his name on you in the waters of Holy Baptism. No longer do you have to fear a world that has become darkened with the stain of sin. Instead, cling to those words that the Angels proclaimed on Easter Sunday, **He is not here, he has risen, come and see the place where he lay.** God has given you an eternal glory, a promise that you bear on your forehead and heart. And on the last day, when Christ comes to Judge the living and the dead, he will take you to be with him in heaven forever.

In the name of Jesus+ Amen



Sunday Services:
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and
Bible Class: - 9:30 a.m..
Thursday Evening Service
at 7:00 p.m.
Christian Day School:
Preschool through 8th grade



A word from Pastor Luther

Retold, explained and applied by Pastor Measel

In my second video devotion from a few weeks ago, I read this quote from Martin Luther:

I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God. (Martin Luther "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague", LW v43 p132)

This is sage pastoral advice for us all. It is appropriate for us to guard and protect our own bodies, taking all precautions that are reasonable. Yet at the same time, we do not neglect the welfare of our neighbor (both physical and fiscal wellbeing).

Jesus told us: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mk 12:31) This means loving yourself, protecting yourself, taking care of yourself. But it also means loving your neighbor, both those with health vulnerabilities and those with financial liabilities.

Within some parts of our society there is fear and grave predictions for public health in the future, and

therefore the desire to continue strong protective measures. On the other hand, there is also great concern over the fiscal wellbeing of families and the mental and emotional harm along with it, and a desire to quickly move forward. As the numbers of infected people declines, a balanced approach toward the uncertain future would seem prudent: opening up parts of society and the economy while still protecting vulnerable people.

In the church, as we try to balance health vulnerabilities with spiritual needs of God's people, we can begin to gather again in God's house as soon as it becomes feasible, while still taking appropriate precautions (social distancing, hand sanitizer, etc). We know that in the midst of uncertainty, God will protect us.

A Christian pastor in Wuhan China is quoted in Christianity Today: "Christ's peace is not to remove us from disaster and death, but rather to have peace in the midst of disaster and death, because Christ has already overcome these things." (CT, "What Martin Luther teaches us about Coronavirus", 1/30/20)

If, in the process of caring for our neighbor, while taking reasonable precautions, we ourselves become sick, we know that we have followed God's will. And should the worst happen and our life be taken, we have the glory of heaven awaiting. Throughout all of it, Jesus is in control. Therefore, as Jesus said after his resurrection: "Fear not. For I am with you always to the end of the age". (Mt 28:10, 20)

Pastor Measel's Sunday Morning
Bible Class Zoom Meetings

The meeting ID will be the same now every Sunday.

Topic: Pastor Measel Sunday Morning Bible Class
09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/270759965>

Meeting ID: 270 759 965

If you do not have the password you may call the church office on Sunday morning just before the Bible Class starts, or get your e-mail to the office before Friday.

One of the pastors is available from 10:30 a.m.—noon and 1:30—3:00 p.m. weekdays, as well as Sunday mornings, for any spiritual needs, counsel, prayer, comfort, or private communion. They also can be reached on their cell phones. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any questions you may have during this difficult time.

Remember, God is with you! Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:20) Jesus will see you through this crisis! God's Blessings to you in Christ.

Pastor Measel & Pastor Yeager

PRESCHOOL AIDE POSITION OPEN

Christ Lutheran School is looking for a Preschool Aide for the 2020-2021 school year.

Contact Principal Neil Webb at nwebb@christstevensville.com or Amy Cole at acole@christstevensville.com for more details.

The April & May Radio Broadcasts have been sponsored by:

- ◆ John Dorn
- ◆ Bob & Jeanne Hartman on the occasion of their 49th wedding anniversary
- ◆ Walt & Diane Clark on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary
- ◆ Sally Reschke, in loving memory of her husband, Albert

Radio Broadcasts & Altar Flower Sponsorships

To anyone that sponsored a radio broadcast or signed up for altar flowers during this time, please be assured that your sponsorship will be recognized once regular church services are held again.



Thank you to
Gerry Kabelman
Steve Matheny
Mike Jackemeyer
Jeff Harris

These men have made it possible for us to view church services, devotional messages and to attend “zoom” bible classes online.

Thank you also to Elliot Measel, Nicholas Quardokus, Jennifer Steffens and Jeff & Brad Oeseburg for their musical contributions to the services.

Their willingness to give freely of their time & talents is greatly appreciated. Please be sure to express your gratitude to them the next time you see them.

Special Dates in May

- ◆ National Day of Prayer, May 7
- ◆ Mother’s Day, May 10
- ◆ Armed Forces Day, May 16
- ◆ Ascension Day, May 21
- ◆ Memorial Day, May 25
- ◆ Pentecost, May 31

Scrip Purchases

Scrip cards are available for purchase in the office during this time. However, no special orders are being placed and purchases may only be made of cards that are in stock.

Call Christine in the office to check card availability. She will fill out order forms over the phone and you may pick up in the office, or cards will be placed in your mailbox. Payment is required at the time of pickup.



*In Our
thoughts
and prayers...*

HEALING

- Addie Scheffler**
- Addison Dunn**
- Amanda Clark**
- Amee Mantei**
- Bea Rudlaff**
- Connie Schmidt**
- Connie Schwanger**
- Dave Knuth**
- Dave White**
- Deleigh McClintock**
- Denice McClintock**
- Erika Steffen**
- Faith Timm**
- Ferny Rantz**
- Jim Walters**
- John Dorn**
- Mary Panzica**
- Mary Walters**
- Miro Virsik**
- Nancy Duke**
- Richard Wandel**
- Ron Szoke**
- Ryan Dunn**
- Sally Knuth**

- Aubrey Hamby**—nephew of Dee Payovich
- Austin Arndt**—grandson of Linda Steinke
- Bruce Wurdeman**—brother of Diane Strohacker
- Chris Dunn**—nephew of Thelma Szoke
- Gertrude Keen**—mother of Debbie Tietz
- Jim Russell**—brother of Mark Russell
- Marian Gerken**—mother of Andrew Gerken
- Marilyn Barz** – mother of Dan Barz

- Nancy Gerald**—daughter of Gerry & Wilma Malinasky
- Paula Hicks**—niece of Dee Payovich
- Phil Oberhaus** – brother of Susan Jackemeyer
- Rose Koepke**—sister of Cindy White
- Sharon Lenich**—mother of Tamara Paulun
- Taryn Schrader**—sister of Tamara Paulun
- William Maul** – brother of Charles Maul

Deaths

- Don Koengeter**—Father-in-law of Craig Coder
- Heidi Oeseburg**, Mother of Jeff Oeseburg.
- Diane J. Exo**, Sister-in-law of Sue Veurink-Meyer
- Ed Siemans**, father of Jack Siemans

Births

- Addison Dunn**—child of Ryan & Andrea Dunn

Anniversaries

- Harry & Pat Jaeger—50 years

General

- =Our country, president & those in authority
- =Our church, school, Sunday school, pastors, teachers & all church workers.
- = Ladies League, Altar Guild, LLL, Men’s Network, Youth Ministry, Children & School.
- =Grief Share
- =Stephen Ministries
- = Missionaries: Rev. Roger James – Phillipines
- = Caitlin Worden de Ramirez in Dominican Republic

♥Servicemen

- Alex Root**
- Allison Blake**
- James Vieregge**
- Joseph Schaffer**

Continued prayers for government leaders, health care workers, other essential workers, and those who are facing isolation, illness, or experiencing unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic ... For those who are working on medication solutions and a vaccine for COVID-19.



... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything **by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let **your requests** be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



May

BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Panzica	5/1	Ralph Dinges	5/15
Faith Timm	5/1	William Batson	5/18
Scott Germain	5/2	Savannah Ulmer	5/18
Jessica Boyd	5/3	Paul Pugh	5/19
Emilia Paulun	5/4	Joseph Schalon	5/19
Penny Haldy	5/4	Brooke Essig	5/20
Doreen Schmaltz	5/5	John Sandmann	5/20
Paul Jackemeyer	5/7	Harriet Gotsch	5/21
Oliver Nash	5/8	Kathleen Karnik	5/21
Karnik, Grace	5/7	Paige Lies	5/21
Kyle Post	5/9	Heather Winter	5/21
Jill Aida	5/10	Ken Ziebart	5/23
Carol Bonczkowski	5/10	Alex Moneta	5/24
Donald Necas	5/10	Amy Cole	5/26
Joan Nozicka	5/10	Aubrey Cochran	5/27
Karen Ross	5/10	Patricia Dorn	5/27
Deanna Sandmann	5/10	Christine Germain	5/28
Chad Hartman	5/11	Andrea Medo	5/28
Robert Ball	5/12	Doris Medo	5/29
Kaitlin Essig	5/12	Madeline Necas	5/29
Adriane Payovich	5/14	Mary Brown	5/30
Lori Sukupchak	5/14	Theodore Froehlich	5/30
Brody Bonner	5/16		



ANNIVERSARIES

Gordon & Nancy Duke	5/7/1983	37
Timothy & Alyssa Judkins	5/8/2004	16
Walter & Diane Clark	5/9/1970	50
Guy & Elizabeth Arrans	5/10/1969	51
Dennis & Kristie Koehn	5/12/2007	13
Chuck & Arlene Dinges	5/15/1965	55
Jeff & Lori Sukupchak	5/16/1987	33
Christine & James Andrews	5/21/1988	32
Charles & Jeanne Hartman	5/22/1971	49
Ron & Carol Bonczkowski	5/28/1955	65
Pastor & Alex Yeager	5/23/2015	5
Louis & Ursula Nuechterlein	5/29/1992	28

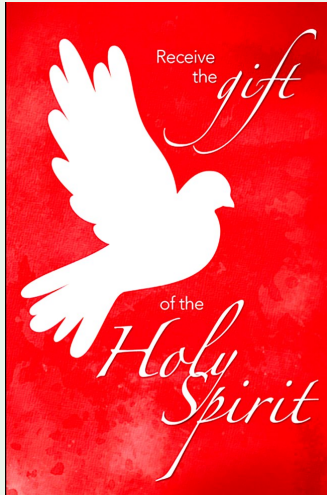


We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

*Remember Your Mother on
Sunday, May 10*



The 2020 Confirmation will be postponed at this time. A new date will be determined in the near future.



Dear Brothers & Sisters at Christ,

Thank you very much for inviting me to share God's word and worship with you on February 9th. What a blessing to be together! Thank you also for your financial gift; totally unexpected and very appreciated! Our prayers continue to be with your ministry work!

In Christ,
Mark & Deb Matheny

SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

The decisions to cancel or postpone our annual spring & summer church events such as the church rummage and vacation bible school have not yet been made. We hope to provide more information on specific dates in the coming weeks.



Greetings,

I am working along with the Board of Elders to update the contact information of our Christ Lutheran families. I have been working with information from the current Elders' lists and the church directory. Everyone who had an email listed in one of these places should have received a message from me. If you haven't heard from me, it's because I don't have a current email address for you or I don't have one at all.

I'm asking all of you to please email me if you haven't heard from me yet with your current contact information. I am looking for the following information:

- Name
- Children who still live at home
- Address
- City, State Zip Code
- Home phone (if you still have one)
- Cellphone number(s) and the person attached to them
- Email address

Also, if you have family members who are members and can help supply their contact information that would be helpful.

You can contact me via email at picklegirl6@gmail.com

Thank you,
Terri Gerken

Congratulations to Suellen Klein on her Retirement

Thank you from all the patients to whom you have given such great care and from the nurses you have trained! You deserve time for yourself. You have left a huge spot to fill as well.

God's blessings on your retirement years ahead!

Financial Update—March, 2020

For the month of March we ran a surplus of \$1 thousand, leaving us with a nine month surplus of \$17 thousand. This compares to a \$28 thousand surplus we ran for the first nine months of last year.

Total receipts for the first nine months were \$10 thousand higher than the same period last year. Faith promise receipts over this nine month period were \$17 thousand higher than the previous year. Tuition receipts are \$9 thousand lower than last year through nine months. (The school is a number of heads smaller this year.) General fund memorials are \$4 thousand ahead of last year through nine months, while Thrivent receipts continue to run behind last year's nine month amount by \$2 thousand.

The last two Sunday's of March, with the country under various shutdown orders, were handled primarily online. A number of members mailed in their faith promises and a few giving units were able to advance a portion of their giving for the balance of the year. These efforts generated sufficient receipts to allow us to have a small surplus in March.

Spending for the first nine months was \$21 thousand higher than the previous year. Administrative spending is \$30 thousand higher than last year, with almost the entire increase related to higher compensation and benefits costs. Properties spending is down \$11 thousand from the previous year. We have benefited from a milder winter with lower heating costs and less snow removal.

Our general checking account had a \$25 thousand balance at the end of March. During March \$20 thousand was borrowed off our line of credit with Church Extension Fund to insure we were able to process payroll and bills. At the end of March 2019 our checking account balance was \$25 thousand, with no funds borrowed from Church Extension.

In early March we completed the sale of the vacant land next to our facility. Net proceeds of over \$176 thousand were passed to Church Extension to reduce the balance on our congregational loan. Church Extension has recalculated our monthly loan payments and going forward we will be paying over \$1 thousand less a month, which will amount to an annual savings of over \$13 thousand.



Starting in 2020, the church is changing the process we use to run giving statements for members. In the past, giving statements were run every quarter.

Changes in the Federal tax law have made these statements less important to most contributors. The primary tax law change was the significant increase in the standard deduction, causing most filers to use that option instead of itemizing deductions.

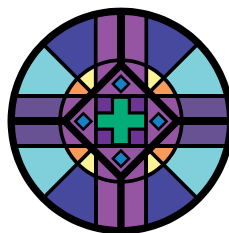
As such, giving statements will be run for all members only at the end of September and at year end. Statements can be run as of any month end. Therefore, if you have an interest in reviewing your giving prior to the end of September, please contact either Craig Klein or Christine in the church office.

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Scholarship Fund Activity
Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>College Scholar- Program</u>	<u>CLS Tuition Program</u>	<u>Michigan Lutheran Program</u>
Balances, July 1, 2019	5,560	30,580	3,478
Receipts			
Gifts	2,500	600	2,900
Interest	14	3	1
Disbursements			
Scholarship Payments	(4,000)	(14,295)	0
Other Payments	0	0	0
Balances, March 31, 2020	<u>4,074</u>	<u>16,888</u>	<u>6,379</u>

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Youth Fund Activity
Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
Balance, July 1, 2019	3,973
Activities	
Holiday Food Baskets, Net	353
Balance, March 31, 2020	<u>4,326</u>



Offerings may be mailed in or dropped off to the church office.

Call ahead to be sure someone is in. (429-7222)

Mailing address: Christ Lutheran Church, 4333 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, MI 49127

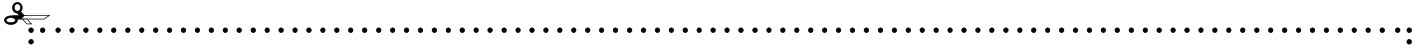
Thank you to everyone for your continued support during this challenging time.

Faith Promise Giving – Direct Deposit Form

Below is a form which may be used should you wish to start having your faith promise giving handled electronically versus using envelopes to make weekly or monthly giving in church.

This option is being presented as a convenience during the COVID-19 crisis and, also as increasing numbers of members are using electronic means for much of their bill paying and other giving.

You may complete the form and return it by mail or drop off in the church office. If you have any questions, please talk with Craig Klein or Christine in the office.



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
4333 Cleveland Ave.
Stevensville, MI 49127
(269) 429-7222
FEIN # 38-1572143

Electronic Payments Authorization Form - ACH (Authorized Clearing House)
FAITH GIVING

DATE OF AUTHORIZATION _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AUTHORIZATION TYPE

- New Authorization Change Giving Amount Discontinue Giving
 Change Banking Information
 Change Date of Giving

GIVING SPECIFICS

Date of First Giving _____ Date of Last Giving (optional) _____

FREQUENCY

- Monthly Specify Numerical Day of the Month _____
 Bi-Weekly (every other week)
 Weekly

AMOUNT OF GIVING

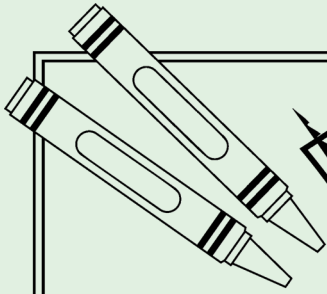
Amount of Giving *per* transaction _____

Please debit this giving amount from my/our checking account (attach voided check below)

I authorize the above named organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

(Attach voided check here)



PUZZLE

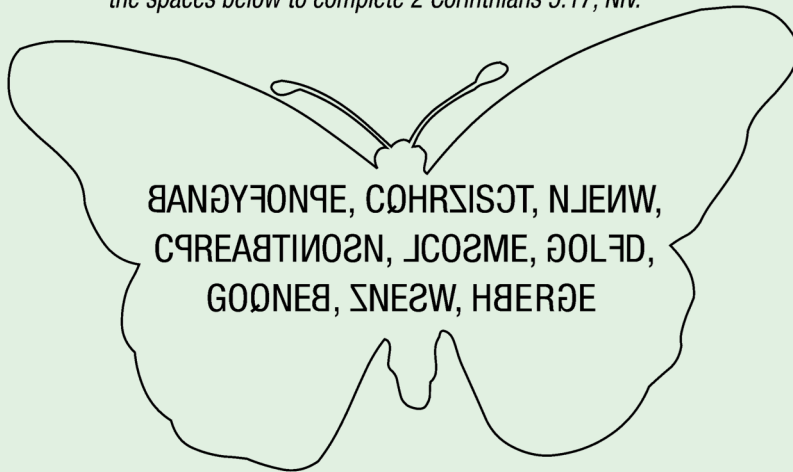
Transformation **POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.