

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Let not your
hearts be troubled.

Believe
in God!

believe
also in me."

John 14:1, ESV

Divine Service One Worship Service

Thursday, April 30, 2026 @ 7PM

Sunday, May 3, 2026 @ 8AM

4333 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville, MI 49127

Sunday Services @ 8AM & 10:45AM

Sunday Bible Class 9:30AM

Sunday School 9:30AM

Thursday Evening Service at 7PM

Christian Day School: PreK – 8th Grade

Fifth Sunday of Easter

As We Gather

The New Testament uses many different images to express the intimate relationship between Jesus and those who believe in Him, and John gives us many of the most familiar expressions of this relationship: Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep; He is the vine and we are the branches ... In this passage, however, language is pressed to the limits to express the indissoluble union and inextricable participation of one life in another. For those who receive Jesus, the whole Jesus, His life clings to their bones and courses through their veins. He can no more be taken from a believer's life than last Tuesday's breakfast can be plucked from one's body. (Martin B. Copenhaver, Receiving Jesus The Christian Century, July 27-August 3, 1994, 719)

Opening Hymn

"Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" Hymn 564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
"A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,
To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
"A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Hebrew
Text: © 2002 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002731
Tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

Invocation

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28.19b; [18:20]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

Service of the Word

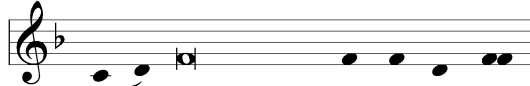
Introit



- P** Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!
- C** **I will extol you, O Lord, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.**
- P** O Lord my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.
- C** **O Lord, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.**
- P** Sing praises to the Lord, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.
- C** **For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
- P** Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

Ps. 30:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 149:1

Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



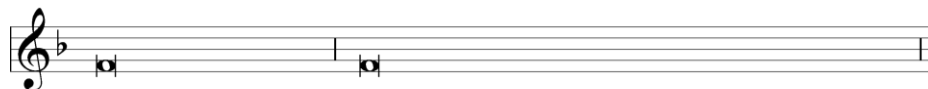
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



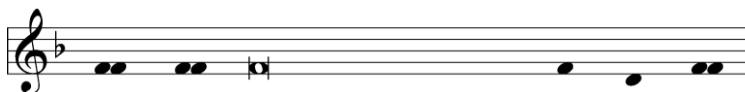
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



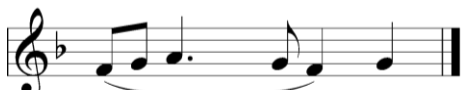
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

"This is the Feast"

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Women 1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

Men 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Women 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

Men 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Reading from the Book of Concord

An explanation of what we believe as Lutherans.

*Luther's Large Catechism; Part II
The Apostles' Creed, Article III. 55, 56*

Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the grace of the Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but continuous, uninterrupted forgiveness of sin. This is because God forgives us and because we forgive, bear with, and help one another [Galatians 6:1-2].

But outside of this Christian Church, where the Gospel is not found, there is no forgiveness, as also there can be no holiness. Therefore, all who seek and wish to earn holiness not through Gospel and forgiveness of sin, but by their works, have expelled and severed themselves from this Church [Galatians 5:4].

Readings from Holy Scripture

First Lesson

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ^{7:2}And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . ⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens

opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**

P He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's  MESSAGE

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” Hymn 633



1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death’s dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael’s hosts tri - umphant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 (Organ) *Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!*

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthral;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–66, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon
“Living Stones”
1 Peter 2:2-10

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Online Giving

Gathering of Our Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings

*There will be no passing of the offering plates.
Please place your offering in the plates in the narthex.
Scan the QR code to set-up automatic giving.*



Offertory

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

Prayer of the Church | *You may be seated if necessary*

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

Closing Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”Hymn 802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Tune: Welsh
Text and tune: Public domain

+ Silent Prayer +

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

THE PREACHER & THE LITURGIST Rev. Martin P. Measel
THE ORGANIST | ELDER ON DUTY (Thursday) Mary Spaulding | Rich Wandel
THE ORGANIST Mark Steffens
ELDER(S) ON DUTY (Thursday | Sunday) Rich Wandel | Mike Jackemeyer
ALTAR GUILD Karen Ziebart, Laura Geyer
USHERS Bob Appelget, Andrew Copi, Paul Jackemeyer, Bob Eisenman

MEMORY VERSE



Church News!

Welcome, one and all. Let us join in the prayer of the psalmist: "May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. May those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!'" (Psalm 70:4). It is good that we are here. Let us praise God together. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book located on the *welcome* center desk.

FLOWER CHART – Consider honoring a family member or special occasion by sponsoring Sunday altar flowers (\$40) using the Flower Chart located in the church commons. The bouquets are later delivered to shut-in members or individuals on our prayer list.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP – Christ Lutheran records two radio broadcasts per month. Consider sponsoring a broadcast for \$150.00 to share with a family member or friend. Be sure to sign-up in order to secure a specific date! Our *Local Lutheran Worship Service Broadcasts* are now on **WSJM 94.9 FM** on **Sunday mornings from 8AM – 9AM**. The services can also be heard by visiting www.wsjmsports.com and clicking on *listen live*.

Radio Broadcast

Our service was recorded last Sunday and will air today.

This broadcast is dedicated to the glory of God,

In loving memory of Mary (Mickey) Grish.

Given by Dennis & Lyla Metz.



THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

We remember the following Missionary in our prayers this week:



The Rev. Jordon (Delaware, OH) and Alison (Little Rock, AR) Andreasen serve the Lord through the LCMS as career missionaries in Romania. In this role, Jordon works with the Confessional Lutheran Church in Romania to plant Lutheran congregations in Romania and in the surrounding Balkan-Mediterranean subregion. Jordon holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, NE, and a Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In his free time, Jordon enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting, reading and spending time with his five children. She previously served as director and teacher at a preschool before becoming a stay-at-home mother. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, cooking and crafting. Please pray for the Andreasen family as they serve the Lord in Romania. Ask the Lord to give them comfort as they leave their friends and family and acclimate to life in a new place. Pray also that the Lord would open the ears and hearts of the Romanian people to the preaching of Christ crucified. Give thanks to God that the Andreasens are serving in this part of the world.

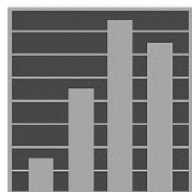
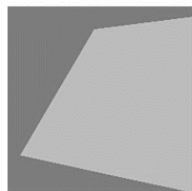
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS REMINDER – Pastor Measel continues his mid-week bible classes focusing on the book of Micah. This class will run through the end of May.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPIC THIS WEEK [UNIT 3 | LESSON 1] – In this week’s lesson, “Mercy-Full Message,” Jesus tells the famous parable of the Good Samaritan, who risks his own life to help a Jewish man whose peril was ignored by his own countrymen. In telling the parable, Jesus answers the question “Who is my neighbor?” for His followers as He challenges us to “go, and do likewise” (Luke 10:37). As a family, you could discuss ideas to help those in need in your community.

CLS SEEKING 2ND GRADE TEACHER – Mrs. Heather Steffens will be transitioning to our Middle School where she will be the homeroom teacher for our 5th & 6th grades. This means we are looking for a 2nd grade teacher to join our ministry here at CLS. If you know a good candidate, please let Mr. Webb know (269-429-7111).

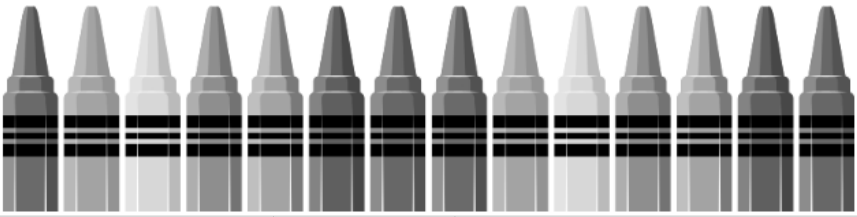
CHRIST LUTHERAN’S SOCIAL MEDIA – Do you have an event you want Christ Lutheran to promote on our Facebook page or our Instagram? Please feel free to email clcoffice@christstevensville.com with your event (garage sale, etc.) details. Thank you!

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER - Supporting Michigan’s 2026 *Miss Amazing Representative*, Deleigh McClintock! Join us **Saturday, June 6th from 4-9pm** here at Christ Lutheran for an evening for a hearty spaghetti dinner with friends and neighbors as we raise funds for the journey to the *Miss Amazing National Summit*. Your support helps celebrate the empowerment for girls and women with disabilities. Bid on a variety of exciting items and experiences generously donated by our local community businesses. Come hungry and leave inspired! All proceeds go directly toward national competition travel and registration fees.



CHURCH CLERK’S REPORT

<i>Weekly Services</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	
Thursday 04/23/26	7PM	12
Sunday 04/26/26	8AM	102
<i>Online Attendees: 37</i>	10:45AM	158
Tuesday Bible Class	04/21/26	12
Wednesday Bible Class	04/22/26	21
Thursday Bible Class	04/23/26	19
Sunday Bible Class	04/26/26	25
<i>*Week of 04/26/26 total budgeted receipts</i>		\$14,861.60
<i>YTD Contributions</i>		\$736,254.73
<i>YTD Budget</i>		\$744,230.77
<i>YTD Over Under</i>		\$-7,976.04
<i>Weekly Budgeted Plate & General Fund Memorials</i>		\$17,307.69
<i>Over Under</i>		\$-2,446.09



<p>Sunday, May 3 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>8AM 9:30AM 9:30AM 10:45AM</p>	<p>Worship Service Bible Class Sunday School *Contemporary* Worship Service</p>
<p>Monday, May 4</p>		
<p>Tues, May 5</p>	<p>7PM</p>	<p>Bible Class</p>
<p>Wed, May 6</p>	<p>9:30AM</p>	<p>Bible Class</p>
<p>Thursday, May 7 National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>10AM 6:30PM 7PM</p>	<p>Bible Class Choir Practice Communion Worship Service</p>
<p>Friday, May 8</p>		
<p>Saturday, May 9</p>		
<p>Sunday, May 10 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></p>	<p>8AM 9:30AM 9:30AM 10:45AM</p>	<p>Communion Worship Service Bible Class Sunday School Communion Worship Service</p>



Teacher Appreciation Week

Rev. Martin P. Measel, Pastor
(269) 429-7222 ext. 112
mmeasel@christstevensville.com

Church Office (269) 429-7222
Kristie Koehn, Church Secretary
CLCOffice@christstevensville.com

www.christ-luth.org
Text Phone 269-588-4800