



VISION STATEMENT: *Christ Lutheran Church will continue its Christ-centered, life directed focus, responding to the needs of its members, emphasizing local and worldwide witness, and acting as a catalyst for the improvement of the neighborhood.*

Hymns & Liturgy: *Service Folder*

The First Lesson: *Micah 4:1-5*

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 22:15-22*

Pianist: *Mr. David Best*

Sermon: *Rev. Karl F. Eckhoff*

“God of Our Fathers”

HOSPITALIZED:

CONTINUED PRAYERS: Rev. Rodger Abatie, Rev. Louis Knief, Jayme Knapp, Mike Clayton, Barb Dreher, Shawn Foote, Abigail Young, Eddy Jones, Pat Kretzmann (Rebecca Best’s mother), Riley Stanley (great granddaughter of Catherine Evans), Rev. Wayne Ahrens (son-in-law of Pastor and Hilda Knief), Donna Hawbecker, Bud Neptun, Jervon Hester, Ron Seibels, Beverly Petrovic, Bonnie Hester, Larry Hartness, Jan Long, Shirley Swanson, Carol Walton (friend of Marilyn Berkshier and Laura Baize), for those in the military, for our Church Boards and their members, for Christians being persecuted worldwide. **THE BOARD OF ELDERS REMINDS YOU** that if you wish to have your prayer request added to the Christ Lutheran Prayer Chain, please contact either the church office (309)637-5309 or laura@berkshier.net) or our Lay Minister, Al Schneider (697-9475 or aschneider@sbcglobal.net). *If you would like to be on the prayer chain and receive emails about prayer requests, please email Laura or call the church office.*

THE CHURCH SERVICE will be posted on the church website and Facebook page, and will be available on SUNDAY morning instead of Saturday as Pastor did before. If you need a link, that will be sent out after the service is posted via One Call. The service folder that is being sent out will be for that abbreviated service; the Sunday church service is somewhat different.

LAST WEEK: Tithes and Offerings: \$6,432.25; MTD: \$43,882.25 Improvement Fund: \$90.00; MTD: \$565.00. Attendance: 161.

THIS IS THE 32nd SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR.

FLOWERS ARE PLACED ON THE ALTAR TODAY to the Glory of God and in memory of Ed Guppy by Martha Guppy.

OFFERING STATEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE this month as soon as everything has been recorded. If you would like to have a copy of your statement emailed or mailed (via USPS) to you, please contact Laura in the church office at 637-5309.

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!! More than 6 months ago, some of you were invited to attend the WATCH (We Are The CHurch) weekend in March. Well, now we know God had other plans... there was no weekend away from our daily cares...instead, we had a whole new upset to our usual routines. The prayers we are asking for now are that we will be able to have the rescheduled WATCH weekend November 20 - 22 & that MANY people will be able to attend. Also, the WATCH steering committee is praying that YOU answer the call to be a participant as well...

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Rom. 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the Kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel. If we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

2020 BOARD OF ELDERS

Joshua Eckhoff, Chairman	(309)678-9660
Chad Whitehead, V. Chair	(309)256-5971
Tommie Washington	(309)648-9626
Kirk Wessler	(309)256-9093
Terry Mooney, Jr	(309)472-8052
Luke Grebe	(309)868-2299
Larry Von Behren.....	(309)360-4305

AS YOU LOOK FORWARD to your worship next Sunday, you should read the appointed lessons for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:

The First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-17

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 5, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Thank God for our nation! The celebration of Independence Day is not part of the traditional Church Year calendar. Rather, it is a national celebration that presents an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of our land. In observing the day, we are connected with the biblical record of God's people in times past who expressed thanks for the blessings that God had given to them through the nation of which they were part. The psalmist writes, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). As we bring our thankful praise to God, we ask that His blessing on our land would continue for generations.

HYMN "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,
O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low;
Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand
From ev'ry peril on the land.

3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent
To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might save
All who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care
From ev'ry peril in the air.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them where-soe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Almighty God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, undeserving of Your mercy. We admit that we have sinned against You in countless ways. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always been the citizens of our blessed nation we could be, taking for granted the gift of freedom that is ours. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him in contrition. In kindness and love, He promises pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord of time and God of history, we ask You to keep our nation and its leaders under Your care. It is by Your grace and blessing alone that we can know peace and freedom. Direct and lead us to live justly with our neighbors, peaceably in our communities, and joyfully in our land, seeking the common good. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 4:1–5 (Walking in the name of the Lord)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:15–22 (Rendering to Caesar what is his)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church, that the message of salvation be proclaimed joyfully throughout all the world and that those who faithfully share the Gospel and who live it out in their lives know blessing and contentment. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that all would know times of peace and security. Grant that the leaders of our nation be endowed with wisdom and courage, that they seek the well-being of our people in every way. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all workers in the Church, asking the blessings of holy wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors, deaconesses, and teachers. By their devoted service in response to their calling, grant that faith and faithfulness abound and Your kingdom increase. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our nation as we rejoice in the freedoms we enjoy. We give You special thanks for all those who serve in the military, in medical professions, as educators, and as emergency personnel. Grant that we live out our citizenship with dedication and gratitude. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for special conditions and circumstances. By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially . . .]. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You on earth, who now rest from their labors, [especially . . .]. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us,
Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "God of Our Fathers"

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

DISMISSAL

BENEDICTION

HYMN "God Bless America"