



Vol 74

September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
LWML Sunday

No. 44

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: Worship Folder

The First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon: Rev. Karl F. Eckhoff

“Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit” Matthew 21:43

HOSPITALIZED:

CONTINUED PRAYERS: Rev. Rodger Abatie, Rev. Louis Knief, Jayme Knapp, Jason Knapp, Brandon Neiman, Linda Wood, Mike Clayton, Shawn Foote, Abigail Young, Eddy Jones, Pat Kretzmann (Rebecca Best’s mother), Rev. Wayne Ahrens (son-in-law of Pastor and Hilda Knief), Donna Hawbecker, Bud Neptun, Bonnie Hester, Larry Hartness, Jan Long, Shirley Swanson, Steve Von Behren, Louie Heuermann, Carol Walton (friend of Marilyn Berkshier and Laura Baize), Deb Mings, sister-in-law of Joe and June Bembenek; Vera Zentko, for the 57th wedding anniversary today of Dwayne and Karol Allen, for the 25th birthday of Bryanna VandeVoorde Oct. 1st, 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.*

LAST WEEK: Tithes and Offerings: \$7,790.00; MTD: \$66,614.36. Improvement Fund: \$120.00; MTD: \$1,095.00. Attendance: 131

THIS IS THE 44th SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God and in memory of Betty Koch Daunt by her sister, Roberta Koch; and by Joann Reith, in memory of George and Mildred Reith for their September 26th wedding anniversary 78 years ago – now in Heaven, praising the Lord. God is good!

THERE ARE ENVELOPES AVAILABLE for the school kitchen remodeling project. Should you wish to donate, you’ll find the envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary by the offering plate. You can also donate online through the church website, www.christlutheranpeo.org.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd ...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

LWML WILL BE COLLECTING non-perishable food items and paper products for the church food pantry today at all three services. Any items will be greatly appreciated but especially needed are: canned ready to eat meals such as ravioli, spaghetti, etc., soups of any kind including chili, macaroni and cheese; dry pasta and spaghetti sauce, cereal for children and adults, canned fruit, toilet paper and paper towels. Thank you for your support!

A HUGE “THANK YOU!” to everyone for the wonderful celebration, kind words and cards at my retirement as choir director. Thanks also for the very generous gift!! It has truly been a joy and a privilege to serve the Lord through music, and I thank you all for allowing me to do so for such a long time with such an amazingly dedicated group of choir members! ~ Lin Von Behren

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC the **Annual Christ Lutheran Dinner & Auction** has been postponed until Saturday April 24th, 2021. We know how much you look forward to our annual dinner and auction and we are pleased to be able to host you in the spring. Please call the school office at 637-1512 for more information or to make a reservation.

THANKS TO EVERYONE for the cards, kind words and gifts in celebration of the anniversary of our ordinations. It has been a blessing to serve the Lord at Christ Lutheran and we’re so appreciative of your gifts! Thank you!! ~ Pastor Eckhoff and Pastor Knief

PEORIA DINING TOUR COUPON BOOKS - 127 local restaurants are included in the 2021 book. For \$30, you will receive a coupon towards *whatever* you are hungry for! Only twenty of the one hundred and twenty-seven establishments are considered “dine in only”, so you can visit today! Coupons are valid through Oct 31, 2021. Purchase your book from Sue Heinz. Please make your check payable to the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria. Thank you for your continued support!

2020 BOARD OF ELDERS

Joshua Eckhoff, Chairman	(309)678-9660
Chad Whitehead, V. Chair	(309)620-6333
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

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING (SEP 28-OCT 4)

MON 9/28:

TUE 9/29:

WED 9/30: Adult Choir 7:00 PM

THU 10/1: Quilting NOON

FRI 10/2:

SAT 10/3:

SUN 10/4: Holy Communion 8:00 AM

Holy Communion 9:30 AM

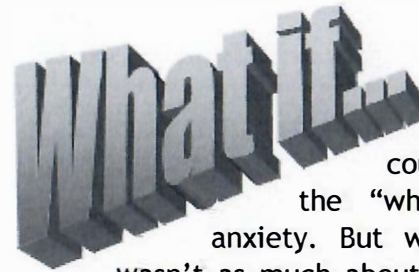
Holy Communion 11:00 AM

Dearest members of Christ Lutheran:

Next Sunday marks the beginning of this year's stewardship and pledge program. This year's theme is "What if..." - a call for us to consider what could happen if we prayed; if we put God first and if we repented and returned to our Lord as He calls us.

I hope and pray that you will hear this encouraging word and prayerfully consider the great things God has and continues to do; not just for us, but through our service and gifts. Financial commitments for the upcoming year will be collected on October 18th and 25th.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Eckhoff



That phrase can strike fear in all of our hearts and minds as we consider all the things that could go wrong. Thinking about all the "what ifs" can cause panic and anxiety. But what if the "what if" question wasn't as much about fear as if was about possibility and promise? What if when we trust God, He can do far more through us that we could ever imagine?

Christ Lutheran Church Prayerful Intention Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please bring this card to church October 18th or 25th.
5% _____ 7% _____ 10% _____ 11% _____ 12% _____ 13% _____

By faith, as God enables me, I will –

- * Pray regularly for the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church
- * Attend worship services and seek to interest others in attending with me.
- * Be available to follow God's leading in working in and through my Church.
- * Strive to walk "in the Word" by attending Bible Class regularly.
- * Give to support the work of the Lord in 2021.

General Fund (weekly) \$ _____
Improvement Fund (monthly) \$ _____
Anniversary Fund \$ _____
Endowment Fund \$ _____

Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit

LWML SUNDAY 2020

OPENING HYMN "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him to answer prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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.

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 fully lived as Your kingdom people. We have not brought forth the fruits of righteousness as we ought. 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, walk in Your ways, and bear kingdom fruit to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all of 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1–7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:33–46

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

SERMON "Kingdom People Produce Kingdom Fruit" (Matthew 21:43).

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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 mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world, and to support global missions through the gathering of mites and providing of mission grants, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all Your kingdom people that they may produce kingdom fruit to Your glory and for the expansion of Your kingdom on earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For... (additional bids for prayer may be added here) ... let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your goodness and remembering with thankfulness Your mercies, which are new every morning; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe
He saved us from evil foe.

2 As His pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread,
And with the wine the blood He shed.

4 Praise the Father, who from heaven
To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death His only Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.

9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the kingdom feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us as Your kingdom people throughout our days that we may bear fruit in keeping with repentance till that day when we celebrate the feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory
Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Glorify His name.

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel Now in every land
So that fellow sinners May, like us, be blest.
Leading them to Jesus,
We can serve Him best.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Glorify His name!

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" There's no greater joy
Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner
Brought to hear His voice.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Glorify His name!