The Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
5356 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS

October 2020 Newsletter

Contact us at office@Christ-Lutheran.org

NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
October 11—November 1

			Risk Assessment Level
8:30	INDOOR	Communion, No Singing	HIGH
9:30	VIRTUAL	Facebook Live	NONE
10:30	INDOOR	Communion, No Singing	HIGH
11:30	OUTDOOR	Communion & Singing	MODERATE

SOME NOTES, PROCEDURES & PRECAUTIONS

- All in-person services will require masks & social distancing. If you are not feeling well or have been recently exposed to COVID, please stay home & attend the Virtual Service.
- Outdoor & Virtual Services will remain largely the same. There will be signs to follow once you arrive for the Indoor Worship.
- Indoor Worship will be limited by seating capacity (max. 45/service). We will fill the sanctuary front to back, using every other pew. We will leave through the doors in the front of the sanctuary & leave front to back (so we always move in one direction).
- All services will follow a similar liturgy, streamlined to limit our exposure & time together in-person. It will feel familiar as a Lutheran liturgy, but different than we are used to.
- The building will be cleaned between Indoor services.
- Other than the sanctuary, bathrooms & narthex, the rest of the building will be off-limits.
- There will be no coffee/education hour or goodies.
- Pastor will stay behind the altar & pulpit other than to distribute Communion. In order to facilitate communication, he will not wear a mask when leading the liturgy or preaching, but will wear a mask to distribute Communion.
- Communion will use pre-packaged elements & will be brought to you in your seats.
- Worshipping together in-person, and especially indoors, carries the risk of transmitting COVID. Please only attend the service where you feel comfortable taking that level of risk.

Additional Notes about Worship:

- If there is questionable or bad weather, a decision will be made about the Outdoor Worship service by 8:00am that Sunday. Any cancellation will be advertised via email & on Facebook.
- **WE NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS:**
  * INDOORS: While there will be no singing at Indoor Worship, there is an opportunity to share piano or other stringed/percussion instrument music.
  * INDOORS: We will need a few volunteers to help with tech (Powerpoint, iPad music, etc), ushering, cleaning, etc.
  * OUTDOORS: We need some help setting up & tearing down each week.

Please contact Pastor Chad if you are comfortable & willing to help out in any of these areas. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast & Quilt Day

Men's breakfast & Quilt Day for October are cancelled.

2020 Bookkeepers Report

	August	YTD	Rolling 12
	2020	2020	Months YTD
Receipts	$16,565.20	$93,029.26	$227,946.29
Expenses	$13,894.41	$99,312.79	$204,100.78
Variance	$2,670.79	($6,283.53)	$ 23,845.51

Building Fund Update

August Giving: $2,636.37

2020 Total: 23,565.59

Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts

Parish Nurse

For any medical questions or concerns please contact **Mary Garrelts** at mbgarrelts@cox.net

Pastor Chad Langdon

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

Phone: 316-744-1242 **Fax:** 316-425-8875

www.Christ-Lutheran.org

E-mail: pastor@Christ-Lutheran.org

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible study will meet next on Oct 8 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at church. We will focus on the holy "now"--recognizing and responding to God's kairos time. This is session 2 in the Gather magazine.

All women are welcome! We will wear masks and social distance. Please consider coming even if you do not subscribe to the magazine and bring your bible!

For questions contact Rosie Harder 200-3233 or ma28rr77@cox.net

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Christ Lutheran's COVID-19 Task Force has created a Risk Assessment Tool for helping us determine which events we can host and what the potential risk levels for any events might be. The Task Force, the Council, and the staff is using this tool to make decisions for how to proceed in this uncertain pandemic environment. If you have questions or desire to participate in a ministry, but aren't sure what the risk level might be, feel free to call the office or talk to a Council or Task Force member.

STAFFING UPDATES & NEWS

- **SECRETARY**—Over Labor Day weekend, our new secretary, Danielle Chapman, resigned suddenly due to some personal issues. She is doing better now, but will no longer be on our staff. We have not yet started to fill this position because there are so many things in transition right now.
- **PASTOR**—This is just a reminder that we have a Staff Relations Committee whose job is to pass along feedback to our staff or council. If you have anything to relay about how Pastor Chad is doing, please talk to Scott Schul.

UPDATE FROM FAMILY PROMISE

Our week to serve as a host for Family Promise was supposed to be October 11-18. Right now they only have one family being housed in church buildings, and our building is not needed during this rotation. They have had a great many applicants recently, so we can expect that our services will be needed next time we are scheduled (in early 2021).

FamilyPromise of Greater Wichita

Please also watch for news about volunteer re-training. They have begun offering a virtual version of volunteer re-training and this is required for all Family Promise volunteers.

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The Crop Walk is going virtual this year. It is being held on Sunday, October 4. Interested people can register online to walk or donate. This is the link to information on the walk and how to register: https://www.crophungerwalk.org/wichitaks/

October 25th is Reformation Sunday. According to church tradition, you are encouraged to wear red this Sunday to symbolize the Holy Spirit. We remember that the Holy Spirit moved in fascinating ways on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany officially starting the Reformation. We also like to think of this day as the birthday of the Lutheran church. We celebrate on Sunday, October 25th because it is the last Sunday in October.

Mark your calendar for our 2020 ANNUAL MEETING. It will take place on Sunday, November, 22 at 4:00pm. This will be a Zoom meeting. See next month's newsletter for more information.

DETAILS:

- Saturday, October 31st on HALLOWEEN!
- Trunk-or-Treating is from 5:30-6:30pm-ish. Come & go as you want.
- Set Up for trunks begins at 5:00pm
- Masks are required for all participants
- Event will be outside in the field behind church
- Awards for BEST TRUNK & BEST COSTUME!

SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Masks are required for all participants.
- We will practice social distancing & stay outdoors.
- Please do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to anyone with COVID.
- Trunks with treats will be parked in the field where directed & spaced apart.
- All others can park in the parking lot.
- Trunks will be decorated but please set candy at least 6 ft from trunk.
- The building will be closed.
- Wait until you get home to eat any candy.
- If weather is bad, the event will be cancelled.

WANT TO BE A TRUNK?

- Email Pastor Chad at pastor@christ-lutheran.org to reserve a spot. Thank you! We need you!
- Be creative & decorate your trunk (see Pinterest).
- Use only pre-packaged candy or goodies—no home-made goods. Crafts or small toys are good too!
- Have 50-100 pieces to give away.
- Maybe think of a creative way to give away treats by staying at least 6 ft away. Clear signage & little tables can help.
- Arrive by 5:00pm for final preparations.
- Wear a mask & dress up yourself!

The risk level for this activity is MODERATE to HIGH.

QUILTS, BABY CARE KITS & SCHOOL KITS

Deborah Bischoff & Jean Bean recently got together and packaged up all the quilts, baby care kits & school kits that (mostly) women have been collecting and working on throughout this past year. Despite our quilters not being able to gather in person, they still managed to put together & donate to Lutheran World Relief:

38 Quilts

25 Baby Care Kits

25 School Kits

and **8 quilts** for the Kansas Department of Children & Family Services

SUPPORT CAMP!

CAMP TOMAH SHINGA KS

Win a $200 Camp Tomah Shinga Gift Card:

Through the month of October, Camp Tomah Shinga will be hosting an online raffle. Every $10 ticket purchased through our website will put an entry into a drawing for a $200 gift card to use at camp. This card can be used for summer camp, a retreat, or swag from the camp store. For each raffle ticket purchase you will be given a tye dye mask that was created individually by our summer ministry team. Enter the raffle at www.camptomahshinga.com Winner will be drawn on November 1st.

DRIVEWAY COMMUNION

Would you like Communion brought to your home? Pastor Chad is always willing to do home Communion visits for those who are shut-in or cannot get to church. During this pandemic, we are trying a new thing—DRIVEWAY COMMUNION. If you can gather one other person or family (or more) for a short home Communion service, Pastor Chad will come to your location and offer the sacrament. It can be in a driveway, garage, backyard, or other suitable location (like a community center). Simply email Pastor Chad (pastor@christ-lutheran.org) and arrange a time.

For where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am with them.

~Jesus in Matthew 18:20

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS:

If you would like to contribute to our Annual Report, please submit your report electronically to Pastor Chad by October 15th.

Thank you to everyone who supported us upon the death of my mother by sending cards and notes. There were tons! And they were very much appreciated.

~ Mary Martin

FAITH & POLITICS

Faith & politics do go together and are connected. Unfortunately, recent studies have shown that Christians in America have been letting their politics shape their faith, rather than letting their faith shape their politics. This is a disturbing trend. Recently our church has offered some great resources to help our faith inform our political engagement. During this highly contentious political season, be sure to check out:

⇒ **"Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy"** at https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government (or just Google it). This social message was adopted unanimously by the ELCA Church Council on June 24, 2020.

⇒ **"Discipleship in a Democracy: How Should Lutherans be Involved in Politics?"** cover article of the latest *Living Lutheran* magazine (www.livinglutheran.org)

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE NEWS:

- **ESTIMATE-OF-GIVING CARDS**—These are being mailed out to all CLC members this month. You are asked to return them by Sunday, October 25th, so that Council can finish the budgeting process. Thank-You!
- **BUILDING FUND CHANGES**—Our mortgage was paid off last February, but we have continued to accrue donations to our Building Fund. In 2021, the Building Fund will change names to become the Development Fund. We plan to continue the 3-year pledge & commitment cycle, but the renaming will allow us some flexibility in how we spend those important funds. Initially, these funds will focus on improving the Parking Lot. We will also be changing the timing of commitments so that the pledges to the General Fund and the Development Fund will coincide and begin in January. This will be reflected in the Estimate-of-Giving cards.
- **CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION**—Our giving during the pandemic has been really good. Thank you to everyone who has continued to offer your tithes & offerings! Our expenses are down, but so is our overall giving. It is completely understandable & expected during this pandemic time, but our overall giving is down about 20% compared to this time last year.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

This fall Pastor Chad is leading a Zoom Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month. These Bible studies will start at 7:00pm. A few days before each one, the invitation will go out to the entire congregation along with what verses we will be studying. The passages will be previewing & preparing for what we will covering in worship. Anyone is welcome to join us. For October, our schedule will be:

10/14 7:00pm	1 Samuel 1:9-1, 19-20; 2:1-10 and 2 Samuel 7:1-17
10/28 7:00pm	1 Kings 17:1-16 and the book of Jonah

Serving St Paul's Breakfast in September

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Grades 6 –12

10/7 Wed **Big Daddy Weave Concert or Outdoor Youth Group—TBD**

If we do not get a group together for the concert, we will be having Outdoor Youth Group from 6:30-8:00pm.

10/20 Tues **Pumpkin Carving**

We will be meeting outside & carving pumpkins. Pumpkins will be provided. We'll meet from 6:30-8:00pm.

The Risk Level for the concert would be **HIGH.**

The Risk Level for Outdoor Youth Group is **MODERATE**.

Please note: For most of this fall, our Youth Activities will take place on the First Wednesday & Third Tuesday of the month. Please watch the bulletin for more details & announcements about upcoming activities.

COVID TESTING

On September 17, Christ Lutheran was a mobile COVID Testing site for the Sedgwick County Department of Health. They set up outside and tested over 60 people. We gave the nurses & medical personnel a little thank you gift for daily risking their lives for our sake.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Each year Christ Lutheran's Endowment has a little over $600 to distribute in the form of grants. These grants are often used for new ministry ideas or to support existing ministries in new ways. If you would like to apply for one of these grants, there are applications available at the Opportunity Table at church. They are due back by the end of October.

5 Things I Have Learned During Pandemic That Have Helped My Mental Health

By Amanda Petrik-Gardner, LCPC

Article submitted by Sylvia Schmidt

With so much grief, sadness, and loss the pandemic has caused, finding ways to improve our mental health at this time has been difficult. Here is what I have learned from the pandemic and will continue long after:

1.) Daily Gratitude: If a world pandemic has taught us anything, it is to be grateful every day for what we do have. Our family, friendships, career, health, home...because not everyone has been so lucky. Every morning, start with either a gratitude journal or stating out-loud, at least 5 things you are grateful for. It might be something big like your loved ones, or something small like getting to watch your favorite television show on Netflix.

2.) Flexibility with my schedule: More than ever, we have had to live day-to-day. Planning has become almost impossible as we do not know what the world will look like tomorrow, including our jobs or going back to school. This has fostered flexibility in our schedules and allowed us to live in the present moment. We will worry about tomorrow, tomorrow.

3.) Become comfortable with uncertainty: Similar to #2, not knowing what is going to happen from day-to-day can be anxiety provoking for many. However the pandemic has provided us the option to become more comfortable with not knowing. The more you are able to practice living in an uncertain world, the easier it can become.

4.) Find new ways to connect to others: Prior to pandemic, we became comfortable with our usual connections and social interactions. We talk to our family when we visit them, we chat with colleagues at work, we see our friends at school. We have now been tasked with identifying creative strategies to connect with others, that we may not have used before. Virtual game nights, Facetime with loved ones, a virtual drink with your besties, drive by birthday parties.

5.) More time outside: When stay-at-home orders were put in place, our usual activities were taken away. Such as going out to eat, seeing a movie at the theatre, window shopping at the mall, hitting the gym. This has pushed a lot of people outside, taking extra walks, sitting on their porch, and we have all seen the benefits of this extra sunshine and physical activity.

Have you incorporated any of these activities into your life? What else have you noticed that has benefitted you?

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID® USA

For some continuing education this year, I decided to take a Mental Health First Aid class through ComCare. It was like a CPR or Red Cross First Aid class, except that it centered on mental health issues like depression, anxiety, suicide prevention, and substance abuse. Lauren McMullin, one of our members, was actually one of the instructors. The class was wonderful and gave me a lot of new insights and practical tools. I would highly recommend taking one of these day-long classes and receiving your Mental Health First Aid certification. They are offered periodically through ComCare and you can talk to Lauren for more information.

~Pastor Chad

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name	Special Event
1	Beau Ketchum	Birthday
2	Carol Dooley	Birthday
	Scott Garrelts	Birthday
4	Aspyn Stucky	Birthday
	Jan Clark	Birthday
5	Alina Serio	Birthday
	Stephanie Haile	Birthday
	Caleb Freed	Baptism Birthday
	Bill Wenner	Baptism Birthday
9	Carol Dooley	Baptism Birthday
11	Jerry & Jennifer Manuel	Anniversary
12	Helen Felzien	Birthday
	Charlie Hentzen	Baptism Birthday
13	Jeannene Schweitzer	Birthday
	Gene & Rhonda Moravec	Anniversary
	Marcene Carstensen	Baptism Birthday
14	Victor Harding	Birthday
16	Nancy Muther	Birthday
18	Rosalineda Langdon	Birthday
	Barbara Apps	Baptism Birthday
20	Mitch Neuenschwander	Birthday
21	Cheryl Shaw	Birthday
	Jody Nelson	Birthday
	Mary Martin	Birthday
	Breanna Foster	Baptism Birthday
23	Ryan Ballard	Birthday
24	Kimberly Foster	Birthday
25	Lauren McMullin	Birthday
26	Pat Durham	Birthday
27	Paul Shaw	Birthday
	Scott & Emily Garrelts	Anniversary
28	Steve Schweitzer	Birthday
29	Beth Wenner	Birthday
	Tucker Clouse	Birthday
30	Jeanette Harding	Birthday
	Noah Becker	Birthday
	Gerardo Naranjo	Baptism Birthday
31	Jack Bastow	Birthday

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event
6	Tues	9:30a	Worship @ Shepherd's Crossing
7	Wed	6:30p	Youth Group
8	Thur	1pm	Women's Bible Study
11	Sun		WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE
12	Mon		Indigenous People's Day
14	Wed	7pm	Zoom Bible Study
20	Tues	6:30p	Youth Group Pumpkin Carving
25	Sun		REFORMATION SUNDAY
26	Mon	6pm	Council Meeting
28	Wed	7pm	Zoom Bible Study
31	Sat	5:30p	Trunk or Treat

"If a deadly epidemic strikes, we should stay where we are, make our preparations, and take courage in the fact that we are mutually bound together so that we cannot desert one another or flee from one another." ~ Martin Luther in *Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague*