

# The Messenger

Christ Lutheran  
Church  
5356 N. Hillside  
Wichita, KS



November 2020 Newsletter

Contact us at [office@Christ-Lutheran.org](mailto:office@Christ-Lutheran.org)

## NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE November 8—29

Risk  
Assessment  
Level

**9:00 INDOOR Communion, No Singing**

**HIGH**

**10:00 VIRTUAL Facebook Live**

**NONE**

**11:00 INDOOR Communion, No Singing**

**HIGH**

### 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.
- Indoor Worship will be limited by seating capacity (max. 45/service). We will fill the sanctuary front to back, using every other pew.
- 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.

**We will follow mandates from local & state health officials. If the COVID numbers continue to spike and there are gathering limits put in place, this worship schedule may change. The congregation will be notified via email of any changes.**

## Worship Cancellations:

If there is severe weather & the roads are bad, any worship cancellations will be posted on Facebook and on our website.

## **Men's Breakfast & Quilt Day**

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



## **2020 Bookkeepers Report**



### **Building Fund Update**

**September Giving: \$1,750.72**

**2020 Total: \$25,316.31**

	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>YTD 2020</b>	<b>Rolling 12 Months YTD</b>
Receipts	\$14,657.50	\$135,105.85	\$223,863.58
Expenses	\$13,071.03	\$143,215.96	\$199,123.68
Variance	\$1,586.47	(\$8,110.11)	\$ 24,739.90

## **Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts**



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



## **Pastor Chad Langdon**

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

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

[www.Christ-Lutheran.org](http://www.Christ-Lutheran.org)

E-mail: [pastor@Christ-Lutheran.org](mailto:pastor@Christ-Lutheran.org)

## **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible study will meet next on Nov 12 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at church. We will finish the three session study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni on holy time with Holy future--reimagining the time to come.

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

For questions contact Rosie Harder 200-3233 or [ma28rr77@cox.net](mailto:ma28rr77@cox.net).



## **STAFFING UPDATES & NEWS**

- SECRETARY**—We have started the process to hire a new secretary. Watch for news about who we hire!
- PASTOR**—Pastor Chad will be taking a vacation day on Tuesday, November 3, so he can serve as an election worker. He will also be on vacation November 25-28 to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family.

## **ESTIMATE-OF-GIVING CARDS**

We are still collecting your estimate-of-giving cards. You can drop them in the offering plate, mail them, or simply return them to church at your convenience. Each one that is returned helps us in our budgeting process. Thank you!

## UPDATE FROM FAMILY PROMISE

If you are a Family Promise volunteer, it is important that you participate in a training session every year. This year, they are offering the volunteer training online, and it takes about an hour or so. The next two training opportunities are:

**Tuesday, November 17 @ 11am**

**Thursday, December 17 @ 6:30pm**

To register for one of these sessions, please email Adam at [adam@familypromisewichita.org](mailto:adam@familypromisewichita.org) and also let Elaine Miller know that you are participating.



Family Promise has had a lot of people apply to use their services recently, so we can anticipate that Christ Lutheran will need a full complement of volunteers for next year. We're always looking for new folks who want to help by cooking meals, driving families to & from the day center, being an evening volunteer, or sleeping at church as an overnight volunteer. Please contact Elaine if you're interested in helping:

[millerelaine72@gmail.com](mailto:millerelaine72@gmail.com).

## **ALL SAINTS DAY**

### **Sunday, November 1**

*All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy of All Saints Day calls us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's Table, we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem. ~ Sundays & Seasons*



This past year, we had two beloved congregation members die:

**Judy Schroeder on January 2**

**Chris Freed on May 11**

On All Saints Day, we will light candles on our altar in their memory. We will also have a special All Saints Day litany and offer a chance to remember other loved ones who have died recently.

# 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](mailto: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*



**THRIVENT  
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Thrivent is hosting a document shredding event on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Risen Savior Lutheran Church (6770 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St. N.). This is a free event open to anyone. There will be a free will offering to support Orphan Grain Train and Fairmount Ministries. For more information or to register, please visit <https://shred4wichita.eventbrite.com>

## 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](http://www.livinglutheran.org))

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

**Christ Lutheran's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 22 at 4:00pm.** Due to the pandemic, we are taking the extraordinary step of hosting our annual meeting online **via Zoom**. Hard copies of the 2020 Annual Report will soon be available at the church welcome table. Each CLC member will soon be receiving:

- **Via email:** a link to the Zoom meeting and CLC's 2020 Annual Report in electronic format. This will have reports from staff & council members, the agenda for the annual meeting, and our proposed budget for 2021. Please contact the office if you need help accessing Zoom.
- **Via mail:** A paper ballot for the selection of new council members and other positions. If you would like to vote for these positions secretly, simply mark your ballot and return it to the church by November 22. While voting for these positions is rarely contested (this year there is only 1 nominee per open position), returning the paper ballot does ensure that you can vote secretly or add a write-in candidate. A vote for each position will be taken during the Zoom meeting, but these "Zoom votes" will be impossible to be kept secret. The paper ballots that are returned will be counted alongside the votes that happen on Zoom.

## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Because of Thanksgiving, there will only be one Wednesday night Bible study this month. It will happen on November 11 at 7:00pm via Zoom. An invitation will be sent out to the congregation. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will be looking at:

Isaiah 6:1-8 and

Jeremiah 31:31-34; 36:1-28

# HUMAN NEEDS MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

This month we are supporting the food pantry at Dear Neighbor Ministries. Dear Neighbor Ministries is located in the Hilltop neighborhood of Wichita and helps serve vulnerable populations in that area. They provide emergency and outreach assistance, a community food

pantry, income tax assistance, representative payee services, a community garden, and a peace garden. They are a ministry created and sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and we've had several Christ Lutheran members volunteer for them throughout the years. If

you would like more information, their website is: [www.dearneighbor.org](http://www.dearneighbor.org).

For their food pantry, we are collecting: *Ramen noodles, canned pork & beans, canned fruit, canned chicken or tuna, canned vegetables, canned soup, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, shelf stable milk, toilet paper, shampoo, razors, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bath soap, laundry soap, dish soap and cleaning supplies.* You can place these supplies in the bin near our front door.



In advance of CLC re-starting indoor worship, the Youth Group provided some "Welcome Back" messages. And Marvin was ready with his mask as well!



## NOVEMBER YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

*Grades 6 –12*

**11/4 Wed 7pm ZOOM Youth Group**

**11/17 Tues 7pm ZOOM Youth Group**

For both of these events, we will send out an official invitation a few days beforehand.



## PICS FROM PUMPKIN CARVING



## A Message From Your Parish Nurse

On the first of June earlier this year – as we were beginning the process of opening “back up” - we had recorded 627 cases of COVID-19 in Sedgwick County. We were seeing it creep into Kansas – mostly through institutions like the prison system & meat packing plants but also long term care facilities. It didn’t seem to “be at our door” yet – but now with 12,000 confirmed cases (from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment’s website) in SEDGWICK COUNTY ALONE – we can’t deny its presence in our community.

While we had gotten our positivity rate (the percentage of those tested who came back positive) down to 4.8% on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – we are now up to 11.4%. Our highest in Sedgwick County to date had been 14.1% back on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are going in the wrong direction.

Kansas has been lucky that we have had only 976 deaths so far (127 in Sedgwick County). The deaths are mostly in those 55 years old & above – but over 30% are less than 74 years old. Part of that success is due to the excellent care given in our local hospitals – but the strain from months of COVID patients is beginning to show.



Hospitalizations for COVID are now at their highest ever in Sedgwick County. Total ICU beds have dwindled down to less than 15 – IN THE COUNTY. Those are the beds left for not only COVID patients, but for any vehicular trauma that comes in, heart attacks, strokes, sepsis & the like. ICU beds & ESPECIALLY ICU NURSES & STAFF cannot be created out of thin air – they are working specialty units that serve the public 365 days a year. And they are becoming COVID weary. As of now – we have no definitive end in sight. We need to not only pray for them – we need to do everything in our power to prevent the spread of this deadly pandemic.

**REMEMBER** – the most likely spread of COVID is through **person to person contact – *the more closely you interact & the longer the interaction***. The CDC has now clarified the length of interaction to include cumulative time – such as 5 minutes for 3 times each - meets the 15 minute threshold for easy transmission (and it can be less). What can you do?

**WEAR YOUR MASK** – every time out in public even if you are social distancing; wash it or dispose of it after every few hours of use (I tossed mine in the laundry pile after 40 minutes wearing it at early voting today); keep it over both your mouth & nose at all times; refrain from touching the front of your mask – *that is the contaminated area*.

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**SOCIAL DISTANCE** –at least 6-8 feet even if wearing a mask unless you are with your family/ chosen friends

**AVOID LARGE GATHERINGS** – this is painful as we approach the holidays but family gatherings are becoming a very common means of COVID spread.

**WASH YOUR HANDS** - thoroughly with warm, soapy water (try praying the Lord's Prayer to go long enough) & often. Always first thing after you return home and before eating.



Another reminder – COVID is also spread by aerosol transmission – that is through tiny, wispy-like particles in the air. This is heightened when:

- You are in poorly ventilated areas
- Enclosed spaces
- Places where people are breathing heavier such as loud talking, singing, exercising, coughing or sneezing
- Places where there is a build-up of the air-borne virus carrying particles – even after infected persons have left the area

Of course we are praying for a safe & effective vaccine to come sooner rather than later. But until that time we need to preserve our health care resources. I watch my daughter, Brittany, go into the labor/delivery rooms at the hospital & while she wears a mask constantly – her patients are not required to do so during their labor. I watch my husband, Jim, head into the hospital 5 days a week to lead a dedicated staff that includes specialty clinical pharmacists who made *the choice* to serve COVID patients on the front lines – working with the intensive care team to maximize positive results. There are others among you that share people you love with the health care system. May none of their names find their way onto the prayer request list for a COVID infection.

With prayers that you all remain safe & healthy,

**Mary Garrelts, RN, Parish Nurse**

# NOVEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name	Special Event
2	Grant & Michelle Stucky	Anniversary
2	Michael Clouse	Baptism Birthday
3	Robin Pressnall	Baptism Birthday
4	Brett Albright	Birthday
4	Rhonda Moravec	Birthday
5	Sydney Freed	Birthday
5	Laura & Brian Storrie	Anniversary
5	Brian Storrie	Baptism Birthday
6	Leo Brown	Birthday
7	Sandra Zabel	Birthday
7	Jon Stiebner	Baptism Birthday
8	Justin Clouse	Birthday
8	Landon Clouse	Birthday
9	Mary Garrelts	Birthday
10	Kim Brown	Birthday
13	Jean Beal	Birthday
13	Stephanie Haile	Baptism Birthday
14	Brian Pressnall	Baptism Birthday
15	Phoenyx Flowers	Baptism Birthday
15	Cameron Scott	Baptism Birthday
16	Tucker Clouse	Baptism Birthday
17	Andrew Clouse	Birthday
17	Kenny Shaw	Birthday
18	Melissa Mihalcin	Birthday
18	John Muther	Birthday
18	Beau Ketchum	Baptism Birthday
19	Dionne Becker	Birthday
20	Wanda Unruh	Birthday
20	Audrey Burdine	Birthday
21	Sheila Schul	Birthday
22	Blake Albright	Birthday
23	Juanita Freed	Birthday
23	Walter Dietz	Birthday
23	Bradlee Howell	Baptism Birthday
23	Caden Howell	Baptism Birthday
24	Caitlyn Haynes	Baptism Birthday
26	Deborah Bischoff	Birthday
27	Steve & Sandra Fowler	Anniversary
27	Audrey Burdine	Baptism Birthday
27	Sheila Schul	Baptism Birthday
27	Joshua Zecha	Baptism Birthday
28	Steve Fowler	Baptism Birthday
29	Maynard & Dorothy Peterson	Anniversary
29	Tatum Gibbs	Baptism Birthday
30	Scott Garrelts	Baptism Birthday
30	Matthew Steinert	Baptism Birthday

## CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Sun		ALL SAINTS DAY
3	Tues		ELECTION DAY
3	Tues		Pastor Vacation Day
4	Wed	7pm	Zoom Youth Group
11	Wed		VETERAN'S DAY
11	Wed	7pm	Zoom Bible Study
16	Mon	8am	COVID Testing
17	Tues	7pm	Zoom Youth Group
22	Sun		Ketchum Baptism
22	Sun	4pm	Congregational Meeting via Zoom
23	Mon	6pm	Council Meeting
25-28			Pastor on Vacation
26	Thur		THANKSGIVING

“Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence or has recovered, and act like a person who wants to put out the burning city. What else is the epidemic but a fire which instead of consuming wood and straw devours life and body?”

~ Martin Luther in *Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague*