

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

March 2020

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)485-2048

From the Pastor... (with gratitude to Good News)

For decades, psychiatrists have had patients fix their eyes on inkblots made famous by Hermann Rorschach. Based on their own backgrounds and experiences, each patient would see different things. Many Christians use the "inkblot" approach when they read the Bible. Most do not study diligently or rely on God's Holy Spirit to "guide them into all the truth" as Jesus promises, so that they understand what God is saying in the Scripture. Rather, they simply read a section of the Scripture and say what they "think" the verse means, or how this verse makes them "feel." By using this approach, people "read into," or "put into" the text their own feelings or interpretation. But the apostle warns, "No Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation."

"As we read and study the Small Catechism and the other Lutheran confessions...we see Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who "pardons all your iniquities, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with lovingkindness."

In Matthew 23, Jesus speaks a series of seven woes, or curses, on the Scribes and Pharisees for their misinterpretation of God's Word. By using the "inkblot" approach, they were locking themselves out of God's Kingdom of Grace, found only in Jesus Christ.

When Martin Luther and his followers questioned some of the popular teachings in the Church of their day, they were asked to recant or face death. But these seekers of the truth did not use the "inkblot" approach to interpret the Bible. Instead, they based their confession on the Word of God alone and, with great clarity, wrote out what they believed. These timeless, Christian confessions and explanations of the Bible clearly proclaim what Jesus and His apostles taught. As we read and study the Small Catechism and the other Lutheran confessions, instead of seeing an inkblot, we see Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who "pardons all your iniquities, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with lovingkindness." During this Lenten season, it would be good for all of us, as we have our daily Bible reading, to read the Catechism at the same time. We will be richly blessed in this.

+ + + + + + + + + + + + +

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- † Fish Fries
- † Outdoor Cooler
- † Altar Flowers
- † Easter Breakfast
- † March Calendar

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Attendance

February 2 - 64
February 9 - 61
February 16 - 43
February 23 - 68
Ash Wednesday - 28

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Outdoor Cooler

As part of the clean-up effort around church, the Trustees decided it is time for the outdoor cooler, next to the fry shed, to go. The Trustees are accepting sealed bids for the cooler through the last weekend of March 2020. Place your bid for the cooler in a sealed envelope with your name on it and put it in the Trustees' mailbox. Only one bid per person. After the last Sunday church service in March, the bids will be opened and the cooler will go to the highest bidder. The bid winner should write a check to the congregation for the cooler, and will be responsible for removing the cooler at their expense.

Lenten Services

Lenten services are held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

During the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent is a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast (Easter).

Fish Fries

This year's fish fries will be held March 13 and March 27 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$12.00 for adults, and \$5.00 for children 6-12. Committee members include Larry and Diane Pieper, and Al and Mary Jacob. Sign-up sheets for workers and dessert donations are available in the lobby. If you have any questions, please check with one of the committee members. Thank you!

Easter Breakfast

Looking ahead - Our annual Easter Breakfast will be held immediately following our 7:00 a.m. Easter worship service on Sunday, April 12. A sign-up sheet for casseroles, fruit, and baked good donations will be available in the Education Wing the end of March. We encourage all who are planning to attend to sign-up to provide at least one item, as we usually average over 100 people in attendance. Thanks in advance for your support!

Altar Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for altar flowers for a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, please contact Julie Figura at 636-299-2056 at least three weeks in advance of the desired date. Thank you for your help with this process.

Meditation

Here you can see what it means to believe. It may indeed seem an easy matter, but it is in fact a high and great art. Therefore when you feel your sin, when your bad conscience smites you, or when persecution comes, then ask yourself whether you really believe. At such times one is wont to run to saints and helpers in cloisters and in the desert for succor and relief, crying: "O my dear man, intercede for me! O dear saint, help me! O let me live! I promise to become pious and to do many good works." That is how a terrified conscience speaks. But tell me, where is faith? If you believe in the words of Christ, "None of them is lost whom Thou hast given Me" (John 17:12), then, as a Christian, you must say: "I acknowledge no saint here. I am a poor sinner deserving of death; but in defiance of sin and death I cling to Thee, and I will not let Thee go. I have taken hold of Thee, dear Lord Christ. Thou art my Life, and this is the Father's will, that all who adhere to Thee have eternal life and be raised from the dead. In the meantime let my fate be what it will. I may be beheaded or burned at the stake." No other life—whether it be called the monastic life or the life of St. Augustine or of St. John the Baptist—will arm a person for victory. Only faith in Christ can do so.

—Martin Luther