

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

February 2016

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

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor...

More people than ever are celebrating Mardi Gras these days, but far less are observing Lent. Mardi Gras dates back thousands of years to pagan spring fertility rites. When Christianity arrived in Rome, rather than abolishing the pagan festival of Mardi Gras, church leaders elected to incorporate it into their faith. The excess and debauchery of the Mardi Gras season became a prelude to Lent. Mardi Gras is also known as Carnival, from the Latin words *carne vale*, which means "farewell to the flesh." It became the day for eating up the last of the rich foods that remained in the house (meat, eggs, milk, and cheese) preparing for the six weeks of eating only fish along with fasting.

Mardi Gras in America has become a time to party, drink to excess, and engage in sinful pleasures of the flesh. It is understandable that those outside the church would live in this way. But for a Christian to throw God's Commandments to the wind (the excuse being that it's one last fling before the penitential season of Lent), is to live as a pagan and not as God's child in Christ Jesus.

To see Mardi Gras as a 'bachelor party' for the flesh because "during Lent we must abstain from rich foods and pleasures of all kinds," is to completely misunderstand Lent. Lent is not about what we give up for God, but about what He gave up for us. Jesus walked the road of Lent, going to the cross of Calvary, to win salvation for all sinners. Lent, therefore, is not about the Law, but is the Gospel - what Jesus did for us. For me to live it up during Mardi Gras because I must make sacrifices during Lent, is to miss the point that Jesus became the Sacrifice for my sin on the cross. Yes, Lent is a penitential season in the Church Year. We reflect upon all that our Lord suffered for our sake. Our sins put Jesus on the cross, and so we mourn over our sinfulness with repentant hearts. But nowhere in the life of the church is the Gospel so clearly seen as it is in Lent.

Perhaps we can look at Mardi Gras and Lent in another way. The true Mardi Gras (without the debauchery) awaits us in heaven where we will feast on all the richness of what God has in store for us. The Mardi Gras of heaven will not end abruptly at the stroke of midnight on Fat Tuesday, but continues forever. The Mardi Gras of heaven takes place, not before the season of Lent, but because of it. Now we are in Lent, for every day, for the Christian, is a day of repentance. But our Mardi Gras awaits us in Christ.

"For me to live it up during Mardi Gras because I must make sacrifices during Lent, is to miss the point that Jesus became the Sacrifice for my sin on the cross."

Pastor's Office Hours:

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

Prayer Service

Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- †Lay Activities
- †Lenten Services
- †Sausage Dinner Report
- †Luther on Baptism
- †February Calendar

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



Attendance

January 3 - 56
January 10 - 38
January 17 - 33
January 24 - 54

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

Lenten Services

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will have Lenten services each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. On Ash Wednesday we will have Holy Communion, along with the imposition of ashes.



Lenten Fish Fries

Christ Lutheran Church will be having two Fish Fries again this year during Lent, February 26 and March 11. Larry and Diane Pieper will be chairing the committee. There are sign-up sheets for work schedules, and if you would like to donate a dessert, please see Glenda Drier.

Also, anyone who would like to donate *start up* money for the fish fries may do so by putting it in a plain envelope with your number on it, so it's reflected on your church statement, and give it to Larry or Diane. Thank you.

Lay Activities

A big thank you to everyone who participated in one or more of the many church and community events held in 2015, from the Fish Fries and Food Drives to the Apple Butter Making, Christmas Walk and everything in between. These activities would not be possible without your support and participation.

As we look forward to an exciting 2016 we just want to make you aware that each event/activity now has a specific coordinator whose job it is to oversee and organize specific events as follows:

- Diane Pieper: Fish Fries, Funeral Luncheons, Augusta Community Spring Food Drive, Financial Coordinator for the Lay Activity Board.
- Marcy Menke: Church Directory, Apple Butter, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Special Receptions.
- Rhonda Ray: Easter Breakfast, First Sunday Fellowship and Christmas Decorations.
- Nancy Little: Meal Coordinator for those who need meals for a specified period of time due to illness or other family emergencies.
- Glenda Drier: Auction Food Booths, Augusta Christmas Walk, Giving Tree.
- Jill Landes: Altar Guild and special occasion remembrance flowers.
- Julie Figura: Assists Jill with Altar Guild.
- Julie Kurtz: Special Door Collections.

Thanks so much to these special ladies who have stepped forward to volunteer their time and talents. If you have any questions or concerns about an activity or event, please contact the appropriate coordinator. As always, your suggestions and ideas are valued and appreciated. Thanks for your support!

Altar Guild Meeting

There will be a short Altar Guild meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, February 21, for the purpose of setting the 2016 Altar Guild schedule. If you are already involved or would like to be, please plan on attending. Thanks!

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Judy Paul's Contact Information

For those of you who would like to contact Judy Paul at her new home in Mississippi, following are her address and phone number:

1402 Stonebridge Road
Oxford, MS 38655

Home number in Mississippi is [662-638-3175](tel:662-638-3175).

2016 Sausage Supper Final Report

| <u>Meals Served</u> | <u>Inside</u> | <u>Outside</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Children | 30 | 14 | 44 |
| Adults | 720 | 225 | 945 |
| Complimentary | <u>10</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>39</u> |
| Total | 760 | 268 | 1028 |



Receipts

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ticket Sales | \$10,525.00 |
| Meat Sales | \$2,617.62 |
| Country Store | \$1,716.40 |
| Soda Sales | \$90.00 |
| <u>Post Dinner Sales</u> | <u>\$1,073.58</u> |
| Total | \$16,022.60 |

Total Profit:

\$10,046.26



Expenses

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Advertising | \$168.00 |
| Meat | \$3,634.30 |
| Groceries | \$2,059.09 |
| <u>Misc.</u> | <u>\$114.95</u> |
| Total | \$5,976.34 |

Luther on Baptism

Just as truth of this divine promise (baptism), once pronounced over us, continues until death, so our faith in it ought never to cease, but to be nourished and strengthened until death by the continual remembrance of this promise made to us in our baptism. Therefore, when we rise from our sins or repent, we are merely returning to the power and the faith of baptism from which we fell, and finding our way back to the promise then made to us, which we deserted when we sinned. For the truth of the promise once made remains steadfast, always ready to receive us back with open arms when we return...

It will therefore be no small gain to a penitent to remember above all his baptism, and, confidently calling to mind the divine promise which he has forsaken, acknowledge that promise before his Lord, rejoicing that he is still within the fortress of salvation because he has been baptized, and abhorring his wicked ingratitude in falling away from its faith and truth. His heart will find wonderful comfort and will be encouraged to hope for mercy when he considers that the promise which God made to him which cannot possibly lie, is still unbroken and unchanged, and indeed, cannot be changed by sins, as Paul says (II Tim 2:13): "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself." This truth of God, I say, will sustain him, so that if all else should fail, this truth, if he believes in it, will not fail him. In it the penitent has a shield against all assaults of the scornful enemy, an answer to the sins that disturb his conscience, an antidote for the dread of death and judgment, and a comfort in every temptation—namely, this one truth—when he says: "God is faithful in His promises (Heb. 10:23; 11:11), and I received His sign in baptism. If God is for me, who is against me?" (Rom. 8:1).



February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|--|-------------------|---|--|
| | 1
Kristine Warnecke | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7
Claire Beumer | 8
6:00 Elders
7:00 Council | 9 | 10
Kenneth Hemsath
7:00 p.m. Ash
Wednesday
Service | 11
Doug Pieper | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17
7:00 Lenten
Service | 18 | 19
Dennis Pieper | 20
George Baravik |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24
7:00 Lenten
Service | 25 | 26
Fish Fry | 27
Lillie Figura
Larry Pieper |
| 28
Amanda Ford
Dennis & Judy
Pieper | 29 | | | | Office Hours:
Monday and
Wednesday
mornings 9-12 | Prayer Service &
Bible Study:
Wednesday
mornings 11-11:30 |