

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

June 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...

When driving through Kansas, I like to keep an eye out for sunflower fields. This can be a challenge when driving at night, obviously, or in the wrong direction during the day. But if I'm driving with the sun in the morning, it's a rewarding experience to see many thousands of brilliant yellow sunflowers facing toward me. It's like they're greeting me, but really it's the sun they are greeting. As the sun rises, these sunflowers turn toward the light shining on them.

"Your mercies are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:23) Without fail, God begins each day like the sun shining on a field of sunflowers. There is nothing about the sunflowers in Kansas which causes the sun to rise and shine. So it is with us. It's not that God sees some loveliness in us and just can't resist the urge to love us and show mercy toward us. God loves the unlovable. Jesus died for the ungodly. We should not pat ourselves on the back thinking that the reason He went to the cross is because of something He saw in us. We are nothing but wretched sinners. We must, rather, look only at the compassionate and merciful heart of God for the reason why we have a Savior; for the reason why His mercies are new each and every morning. Doing this, we will respond in faith to His love like a brilliant and beautiful sunflower.

"Without fail, God begins each day like the sun shining on a field of sunflowers."

The love of God does not find, but creates that in which it delights; the love of man is generated by what it delights in...Sinners are lovely because they are loved; they are not loved because they are lovely. That is why the love of man avoids sinners and evil persons. But Christ says, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Martin Luther

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Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me-wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" vss. 1 & 2

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:

- † Luth. Foundation Grant
- † Notes of Appreciation
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- † June Calendar

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



Attendance

May 10 - 51

May 17 - 40

May 24 - 37

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

Meditation

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep." John 10:14, 15b

A little boy had tears in his eyes after reciting the 23rd Psalm with the congregation. "What's the matter?" his mother whispered. "Why do we say, 'The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want?'" he responded, "I do want Him. I love Jesus. Why wouldn't I want Him?" Those tears were tears of faith. They showed his mother how dear Jesus was to her little boy.

Do we ever cry such tears? Or do we instead, at times, show just the opposite? Do we live as though Jesus is the Shepherd we do not want? Sometimes I show others by how I live that I much prefer being my own shepherd. Yet, this is not who you and I are. You and I are Jesus' sheep even though we often act like we are not. Our Shepherd is good because He died for sinful sheep like us and because He seeks straying sheep like us. There are no perfect sheep within Jesus' sheepfold. But all His sheep are forgiven sheep.

Lutheran Foundation Grant

In response to the global COVID-19 crisis, Crisis Response Grants from the Lutheran Foundation were made available to eligible organizations until July 1, 2020. The purpose of these grants is to equip congregations and schools with resources to assist with meeting the unique challenges and opportunities resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. Specifically, these grants are intended to support activities that are crucial to the fulfillment of the mission of the applicant. Applicants must be one of the following to apply for these funds:

- A Lutheran Foundation Delegate Congregation
- An accredited K-12 school that is a member of the Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA)

These grants are available for up to \$5,000. Christ Lutheran applied for a \$5,000 grant. Possible uses for this grant include internet upgrades, purchasing video/recording equipment, and assisting families in the congregation and possibly the community who have been especially affected by this crisis. A check for \$4,000 has been received, and an additional \$1,000 check will be forthcoming. We thank God for blessing our congregation with this gift!

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Notes of Appreciation

Hello Julie & Pastor,

It was so wonderful to see you all at church & receiving communion today! Not sure when California churches will be "allowed" to assemble again?

Yours in Christ, Jill Landes (May 10, 2020)

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Pastor,

I just want you to know how wonderful church was yesterday! The first hymn was perfect. It was so good to be back in my church. Thank you for all you do! I even watched it over again last night on my phone. :) Elaine Rutherford (May 11, 2020)

Offerings

God has continued to bless Christ Lutheran Church through you, our members, who continue to give to the Lord from what He has given to you.

Reminder—to assist the Tellers, please use your offering envelopes or if you forget your envelope, write your envelope number on your check. Thank you!