

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

May 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...

The lovely scent of freshly cut grass is the reek of plant anguish. When attacked, plants release airborne chemical compounds. Scientists have learned that plants use these compounds as a type of distress call, notifying nearby creatures who can rescue them from insect attacks. (Perhaps this is why bees and wasps will sometimes attack me as I mow. The grass is calling out for help!)

When we, who are God's children, are attacked by our enemies of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh, we act like a freshly cut lawn. We release cries of distress to God, and in His nostrils, our cries smell as delightful as incense to Him. "Let my prayer be counted as incense before You" - Psalm 141:2. In Revelation chapters 5 and 8, the prayers of God's saints are called incense here also. To God, the cry of one of His children in anguish and distress is a most precious fragrance; one that fills Him with care and concern for His dear child.

As we mow, we are unable to ignore the scent of the cut grass. So, too, God is simply unable, because of His mercy, to ignore our cries and prayers. He urges us to pray. He wants to smell that incense coming up to His nostrils. And He does not leave us to our anguish. He acts. He always chooses the best way to act for our good. He doesn't send bees and wasps to defend us from attack. He sent His beloved Son to be brutally attacked and crucified for us. In Christ we have God's answer to every trouble that comes into our life. "He who did not spare His only Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things" (Rom. 8:32)? This sending of the Son is not just a past-tense event; it continues in the present. Jesus lives to continually be with us, to rescue us from our enemies, to forgive us our sins, to pour His gifts of salvation upon us through Word and Sacrament. Your lawn never had it so good. But you do. Grass may have bees, wasps, and other insects as its protector, but you have God as the One who smells your prayers like incense, and delivers you for the sake of Jesus.


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"Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You." LSB—Evening Prayer, Psalmody

"In Christ we have God's answer to every trouble that comes into our life."

Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

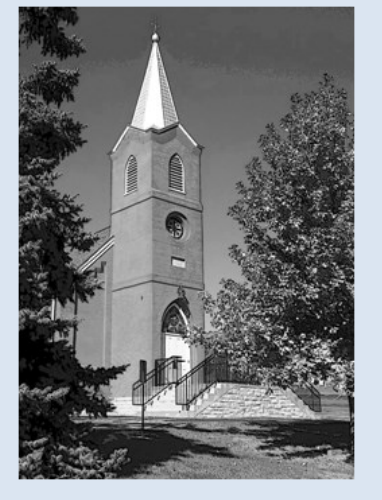
Prayer Service
Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- †Bible Class
- †Spring Food Drive
- †Directory Update
- †Financial Update
- †May Calendar

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



Attendance

April 3 - 44

April 10 - 46

April 17 - 43

April 24 - 45

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

Congratulations!

Megan Clasen, granddaughter of Dave and Nancy Little, will be graduating in May from Marquette High School. She will be attending Northwest Missouri State University. Megan received the following scholarships and awards; Bright Flight, President's Scholarship and Music Performance Scholarship from Northwest, Marquette Excellence Scholarship, Marquette H.S. Glory of MO award, ACE Award, and the Winner Circle Award.



Items for Sale

The following items are available for purchase - four cases of chips from the fish fry (\$25 per case or \$5 per bag), and biscuits from the Easter breakfast (\$1.50 per bag). See Larry or Diane Pieper if interested.

Don't Tell Me That!!

The Sunday morning Bible class will be starting a new Bible study topic beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. *"Now that I'm a Christian, do the 10 Commandments still apply to me?" "Have not Christians been freed from the Law?"*

12 short chapters including:

- What is Repentance?
- Do Christians really need the Law?
- The Forgiveness of Sin is Certain.
- Repentance, However, is Vital!
- The Law Rules Over Man as Long as he Lives.

Discussion of these questions and topics will help us to gain greater insight into basic Christian living.

All are welcome!



Spring Food Drive

The Spring Food Drive is underway and will continue through Sunday, May 15th. There will be a table set up in the Education Wing with a list of items needed such as non-perishable foods, personal care products, etc. A container for monetary donations will also be available. Please contact Diane Pieper with any further questions; thanks in advance for your support of this important community outreach!

Church Directory Update

We have one correction to the 2016 directory update, please add John, baptized son of Monica and Mike Weirich, to their listing in the 2016 directory update. We apologize for this oversight!

The 2016 church directory update is still available in the church workroom for those who have not yet obtained a copy. Please check off your name on the list when you pick up your copy; if you have a neighbor/family member who doesn't attend frequently, please pick up a copy for them and mark their name off the list, as well. Thanks!

God's Blessings George and Sarah!

George Baravik and Sarah Kurtz were married on April 30, 2016 at Christ Lutheran Church. God's richest blessings to them as they begin their life together!



Financial Update

Operating Income	\$22,897.50
Operating Expenses	<u>\$26,604.49</u>
1st Quarter Deficit	(\$3,706.99)
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Line of Credit	\$9,700.00

Health News Update

Did you know that strokes are the leading cause of long-term disability and the 5th leading cause of death in the U.S.? Did you know that there is a stroke treatment breakthrough that only five hospitals in the St. Louis area are certified to perform? Knowing which hospitals are comprehensive stroke centers can be the difference not just between living independently and living in a skilled nursing facility but also between life and death. Please see the church bulletin board for more information on this important topic!

Memorial Day Service

Pastor Bell will be preaching at the Memorial Day Service on May 30 at the Augusta Cemetery. All are invited to attend!



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God's Blessings Paul Flo!

Paul will be spending his vicarage in the Dominican Republic for the next two years. Our prayers are with Paul as he prepares to begin this exciting chapter in his life!

Daily Devotion



"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one."

Hebrews 11:16

Do you have a bucket list? More and more people are coming up with one - with a list of things they want to do, places they want to visit before they die. If someone hasn't been to the Grand Canyon, or seen the Rocky Mountains, or been to Australia, or to Europe, these are a few places they might want to put on their bucket list. Some have always wanted to sky dive, or scuba dive, and so these activities go on their bucket list. It seems like having a bucket list, as long as it's within reason, is a good thing to have.

But let's look at this from the Christian perspective. A bucket list as described above is a denial of what is to come. It's like saying: What heaven has to offer can't come anywhere close to what is here on earth, so I'd better see these things and do these things now before I die. Really? Is this what we believe as Christians? I think not! Nothing on earth, as beautiful as it might be, can come close to touching the beauty of heaven. No activity we can do here on earth, as fun and exhilarating as it might be, can come close to matching the joy we will have in heaven. To act as if this life is where it's at - even more than the life to come, which is ours in Christ Jesus - is to act as though our citizenship is on earth and not in heaven.

Now because we are citizens of heaven through Christ, how about this for a bucket list: striving to share the Gospel, before we die, with those loved ones who are still lost; directing part of our inheritance to support a worthwhile mission that proclaims the Gospel; reconciling with someone with whom we had been at odds. That's a bucket list worth having.

Lord Jesus, what You have prepared for me is too wonderful for me to understand now, and yet by Your grace help me believe it is the better country which You are leading me to. Amen.



May 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Jerry Nadler 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Ascension Day 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Mother's Day 8 | Glenda Drier 9
6:00 Elders
7:00 Council | Kelly & Carol Latham 10 | Nick & Patricia Baravik 11 | 12 | Teri Nadler 13 | 14 |
| Pentecost Sunday 15 | 16 | Scott & Sandra Toedebusch 17 | 18 | Geoffrey Ballmann 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Holy Trinity Sunday 22 | 23 | 24 | Jennifer Pieper 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | Memorial Day 30 | Mary Jacob 31 | | | Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday mornings 9-12 | Prayer Service & Bible Study:
Wednesday mornings 11-11:30 |