

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

December 2015

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

The story of Ivan is heart-warming. Let me share it with you. It was Thanksgiving Eve. As I was unlocking the church, a young man was standing with his bicycle on the walkway behind my office. He is biking across our country. He left Seattle in August and plans to arrive in Boston in February. This young man is from China and has a six-month visa. He calls himself Ivan, but his real name is Xu Jiang jun. He asked me if he could spend the night behind our church and use our restroom that night and in the morning, and I said that would be fine. I invited him to our Thanksgiving worship service, which was starting in about an hour. Ivan had no concept of what "worship" was. Then he asked me if he could spend the night inside our church building. I regretted to tell him that I did not have the authority to grant him permission.

Fast-forward to 6:30 p.m. Ivan is sitting in a pew in our sanctuary. One of our members spoke to him outside and also invited him to our service. He accepted her invitation. She sat in the pew with him and helped him with his hymnal. This was Ivan's first exposure to the Christian Faith - sitting through a Thanksgiving Eve worship service. He heard the readings from God's Word. He heard the sermon based on Luke 17. He heard our praying, and he heard our singing. And he, therefore, heard this hymn: *In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, to the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done (LSB #894 vs.2).* As we were singing that verse, I realized what I needed to do. After the service, as I greeted our visitors, I also welcomed Ivan. I shared with our members, still sitting in the pews, who he was and why he was with us on this Thanksgiving Eve. Then I read the above hymn verse to our congregation and put Ivan's questions to them. "Would it be alright for Ivan to spend the night inside our church?" One head after another nodded yes. I heard someone say, "Yes." No one said, "No." "Ivan," I said, "our members want you to stay inside our church tonight." He was touched. In the lobby afterwards, Ivan was greeted by many of our members. One member asked him if he had eaten supper. "No." He was planning on cooking in a few minutes, but this member brought him supper - soup, sandwich, and cookies. We locked him in for the night. He had found a comfortable place on our carpet to put his sleeping bag. Before she left, one of our members put a Portals of Prayer on his pillow.

The next morning, Thanksgiving Day, I went over to the church, but Ivan was not there. He had left early. Will we ever see him again? Probably not. But we could see Ivan in heaven! Through our congregation, God planted the seeds. God can nourish those seeds through other Christians. He can work within Ivan's heart and bring him to faith in his Savior. How wonderful it will be if we do have Ivan with us in heaven for all eternity! Pray for Ivan. Pray that God does nourish the seed of His Word which was planted in him last Wednesday evening. And as you pray for Ivan, thank God for our congregation. Through the love and care of our members, God was loving Ivan and caring for him. Through you, dear members, God may open a mission door into China through this young man, Ivan.

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:

- †Church Directory
- †Christmas Walk
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***"Thy Word is a lamp unto
my feet and a light unto
my path." Psalm 119:105***



Attendance

November 1 - 58
November 8 - 35
November 15 - 47
November 22 - 47
Thanksgiving Eve - 38

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

Savior of the nations, come. Virgin's Son, make here your home! Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

For You are the Father's Son, who in flesh the vict'ry won. By Your mighty pow'r make whole, all our ills of flesh and soul.

LSB #332- "Savior of the Nations, Come" vss. 1, 6

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive benefitting the Marthasville Food Pantry. Over 190 items were collected and will be distributed to needy families in our area. Thanks so much for being a blessing to those less fortunate this holiday season!



Church Directory

We are again in the process of updating our church directory for distribution early next year. There will be a copy of the current directory available in the Adult Sunday School room starting Sunday, December 6, for members to review and initial - if nothing has changed just initial next to your name; if something has changed, make the changes as needed and then initial. Once everyone's info has been verified and all schedules (greeter, usher, teller, altar guild, etc.) are complete, copies of the directory will be distributed. Thanks for your help with this project!

Augusta Christmas Walk

Christ Lutheran Church will again be participating in the Augusta Christmas Walk December 4 and 11. We will have a booth at the Visitor's Center where we will provide complimentary wassail and cookies and have apple butter, cookbooks, quilts, and a few other goodies for sale. There is a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing for those who would like to donate cookies for either date; there is also a sign-up sheet available if anyone would like to help man the booth for a couple of hours - several time slots are available. We look forward to participating in this festive community outreach as we strive to remind our friends and neighbors that Jesus is the reason for the season! Thanks in advance for your support!



Casual Class

Casual Class will reconvene after the first of the year. In our last class, we discussed Daniel and the Lions' Den.

The class is looking for additional Bible stories and/or topics to delve into that you would be interested in studying. Let Pastor Bell know of any topics or books of the Bible you would like to study. Please consider joining us!



Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling will take place on Sunday, December 13. We will meet at the church at 3:30 p.m., carol at three nursing homes in Washington, and enjoy a meal together following. All voices are welcome!

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Special Services Offering Designation

Special Services offerings have been designated as follows:

Christmas Eve Envelope - Lutheran Children and Family Services

Christmas Day Envelope - General Fund

-Special Giving Opportunities in plain envelopes (Loving Hearts)

All loose plate - General Fund



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Door Collection

A door collection for Christmas Eve candy bags will be taken after church on Sunday, December 6.



Daily Devotion

"The one who endures to the end will be saved."
Mark 13:13

Jesus is the one who endured to the end. But He did this for you. So you have a Savior who helps you endure. He does not tell us, "The one who has never been knocked down will be saved," but "*The one who endures.*" We fall down all the time. Our sins lay us flat. The devil tempts us and we give in to the world's charms. We're a mess. We're weak. How will you endure? Through Jesus who keeps lifting you up. He returns you to your Baptism. He draws you to His house of mercy. He feeds you His body and blood. Through these, He is laying hold of you in mercy so you endure.

"He who endures to the end." You and I will not waltz into heaven. It's more like we'll be carried there on a stretcher by Jesus...bruised, beaten, exhausted...because we're in the fight of our lives and no Christian comes through unscathed. But Jesus is for you. He fought for you, and He fights alongside of you. Lean on Him. Fall into His arms. They are strong, and they are always full of mercy and forgiveness for you. That's how you will endure to the end--through Jesus.



October Financial Report

Operating Cash Flow:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Operating Income (loose plate, current white envelope) | \$5,597.50 |
| Operating Expenses (everyday expenses, salary) | <u>\$11,613.00</u> |
| October Deficit | \$(6,015.50) |

Debt:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Line of Credit at Bank | \$12,200.00 |
|------------------------|-------------|

Large Bills Due in Oct., Nov., Dec.:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Prepay Propane for winter | \$900.00 |
| Property & Liability Insurance (quarterly payment) | \$1,626.25 |
| Update Outside Cooler | \$ 900.00 |

December 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Office Hours:
Monday &
Wednesday
mornings 9-12 | Prayer Service &
 Bible Study:
Wednesday
mornings 11-11:30 | 1 | 2
Scott Jacob | 3
Dan & Abby Rinne | 4
Scott Toedebusch

5-10 Christmas
 Walk Booth | 5
Jackie Nadler
Quinn Weirich |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
Diane Pieper | 10 | 11

5-10 Christmas
 Walk Booth | 12 |
| 13
Scott & Amanda
Jacob
9:00 Christmas
 Practice
3:30 Caroling | 14
Carol Latham
Nancy Little

7 p.m. Council | 15
Gauge Ford | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19
Madonna
Warnecke |
| 20
9:00 Christmas
 Practice | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24

6:30 Christmas
 Eve Service | 25
10:00 Christmas
 Day Service | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29
Judy Paul | 30
Samantha Pineda | 31 | | |