

# Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

February 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

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

Martin Luther writes, *"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 (2 Timothy 2:13): 'If we are faithless, He remains faithful--for He cannot deny Himself.'"*

An acquaintance of mine told me that he had been dishonorably discharged from the Air Force Reserves when he was "young and stupid" (his words). He had been in the habit of going out with a buddy of his the night before his weekend reserve duty each month. He always got up in time for roll call on Saturday morning even though he was tired and hung over from drinking. One weekend, however, he and his friend overdid it, and the next morning he slept in. When his commanding officer found him, he told him to pack his things and go home. I asked him if his discharge was a stain on his resume. No, he told me, because he had served four years with distinction in the Air Force prior to this, and received an honorable discharge. Nothing, he told me, can touch that. Once you're honorably discharged, it can never be revoked no matter how "stupidly" you behave.

*"God's promise given to you  
in those precious waters will  
never be revoked."*

We, as God's baptized children, act "stupidly" at times. Time after time we say and do things which should earn for us a dishonorable discharge from God's kingdom. We fall into sin; at times we even run full speed into sin. Yet, our baptism still stands. God's promise given to you in those precious waters will never be revoked. There is nothing we can do that will cause God to reject us as His dear children in Christ. Daily, therefore, we can always return to God's grace by returning to our baptism. Repenting of our "stupid" actions, we should believe without doubting that our God forgives us completely for Jesus' sake.

## **Pastor's Office Hours:**

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

## **Prayer Service**

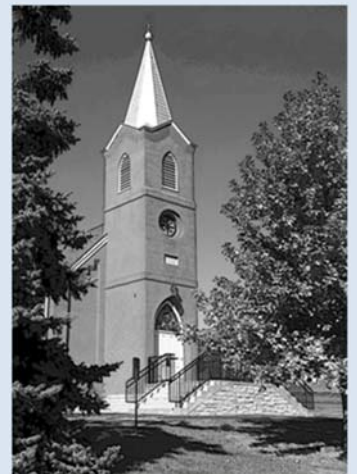
Followed by Bible study  
each Wednesday morning  
11:00 - 11:30  
a.m.



## **Inside this Issue:**

- †Financial Update
- †Sausage Dinner Report
- †Congregational Meeting
- †February Calendar

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



## Attendance

January 4 - 47  
 January 11 - 65  
 January 18 - 82  
 January 25- 47

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

## Looking Ahead—Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We will have Lenten services each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. On Ash Wednesday we will have Holy Communion, along with the imposition of ashes.

The theme this year for the Lenten services will be *Looking at our Lord's Passion through the eyes of eyewitnesses*. Each sermon will be preached from a first person perspective.

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## Financial Update

Every year we encounter a triple whammy at the end of the summer. We have our large insurance premium due, the beginning of school requiring tuition funds, and pre-payment of our contracted propane use for the winter. Along with that, we normally see a reduction of offerings through the summer as we see a slight decline in attendance.

This year we had to use our Line of Credit on top of other money in the General Fund earmarked for later use to get through this challenge. At the October Voters meeting, a motion was passed to put our Sausage Supper money in the General Fund to help pay our insurance on our property, make payments on the parking lot loan, and for general use to cover some of our larger bills.

As you can see from the Sausage Supper Committee Final Report, a profit of \$8,936.26 was generated from our Sausage Supper. Consequently, applying those funds has enabled the Treasurer to pay the insurance premium, the tuition costs due to Immanuel, the propane bill, and pay off the loan for the parking lot work. To date, \$2,436.86 remains earmarked in the General Fund to complete the final phase of the parking lot project which includes laying concrete from the garage to the asphalt. Any money left over after those costs will be transferred to the Building Fund Savings account, including any remaining pledges which are yet to be received.

Currently, the Line of Credit due at First Bank is \$2,700 which we hope to have paid off within 60 days of this writing. Things are going well. God has surely blessed our congregation.

Tom Kluesner, Chairman

## 2014 Sausage Dinner Final Report

| <u>Meals Served</u>      | <u>Inside</u>      | <u>Outside</u>  | <u>Total</u>      |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Children                 | 24                 | 19              | 43                |                      |
| Adults                   | 609                | 323             | 932               | <b>Total Profit:</b> |
| Complimentary            | <u>10</u>          | <u>2</u>        | <u>12</u>         | <b>\$8,936.26</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>643</b>         | <b>344</b>      | <b>987</b>        |                      |
| <br>                     |                    |                 |                   |                      |
| <u>Receipts</u>          |                    | <u>Expenses</u> |                   |                      |
| Ticket Sales             | \$10,355.00        | Advertising     | \$366.48          |                      |
| Meat Sales               | \$3,353.38         | Meat            | \$4,990.15        |                      |
| Country Store            | \$1,817.20         | Groceries       | \$2,677.88        |                      |
| Soda Sales               | \$21.00            | <u>Misc.</u>    | <u>\$110.75</u>   |                      |
| <u>Post Dinner Sales</u> | <u>\$1,534.40</u>  | <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$8,145.26</b> |                      |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$17,081.52</b> |                 |                   |                      |



*Pictures from the Sausage Dinner are available to view on the website:  
<http://clcaugustamo.org/sausage-dinner.html>*

## Congregational Meeting Summary

On Sunday, January 11th, a special congregational meeting was called to report on the process the Elders initiated this summer in response to member transfers and other areas of concern. The Elders report to the congregation was both thorough and positive; it clarified the process implemented, the meetings held, and the attitude and approach utilized throughout.

A summary of the process is as follows: after the Elders contacted the Synod for assistance, Pastor Gary Ellul was assigned as the synodical representative to our congregation by our district president. Individual members as well as Pastor Bell, the Elders, Chairman, and Vice-Chairman were interviewed as part of this process. Pastor Ellul commented that all individuals interviewed were consistent in sharing their love for Christ, love for our congregation and the desire for a positive outcome for all concerned. Pastor Ellul's report was reviewed with the church council over the course of two meetings to discuss the findings and consider various interventions the congregation could employ to address the identified concerns. The council decided to call a special congregational meeting to discuss this process, solicit input from church members and discuss the options regarding our next course of action.

A general discussion then ensued allowing members to share ideas, experiences, concerns and comments. Appreciation for Pastor Bell's strengths and talents was frequently mentioned. The meeting remained positive throughout and the Elders, Chairman and Vice-Chairman noted items to address as well as potential opportunities for improvement. Two programs offered by the Synod, the Doxology program and the CARE process, were discussed. The Doxology program focuses on the Pastor, his wife and lay leadership. The CARE process takes 6-12 months to complete and involves the entire congregation. At the January 18th voters meeting the voters elected to accept the council's recommendation to enroll in the Doxology program and consider the CARE process at a later date. Pastor Bell has indicated he is looking forward to this opportunity to develop and strengthen his pastoral skills. Following the special congregational meeting, leadership received many positive comments and very little negative feedback. Comments such as "we should have these meetings more often", "it was really good", and "a very healthy process" were frequently heard.

Thanks to everyone for their participation and positive response to this process. We pray for God's guidance as we embark on this next step towards congregational health and wholeness.

Tom Kluesner, Chairman    Kevin Nadler, Vice-Chairman    Peter Menke, Elder

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### Fish Fry Update

Thanks to the coordinating skills of Larry and Diane Pieper the Lenten fish fries are back! They will be held on Friday, March 6, and Friday, March 20, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Sign up sheets will be available in the next couple of weeks, so watch for your opportunity to provide the Augusta community with good food for a good cause. Anyone interested in helping to organize any aspect of this project, please contact Diane Pieper at 636-228-4462.

**Thank you!**

### Prayer Service

Our Lord asks us to pray for each other and for all who have needs. Each Wednesday morning a small group of members meet together to pray in this way. Our prayer list includes our own members, as well as the names of those who are brought to us. We are now looking to add our Augusta community to our list. We are in the process of caring for our community in this way—letting them know that we want to include them and their loved ones and friends in our prayers by name. If you would like to be a part of our prayer service, there is always room for more to join us. And if you have someone you want us to pray for, please give that name to Pastor.



# February 2015

| Sun  | Mon                                   | Tue                                     | Wed  | Thu                 | Fri                                 | Sat  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1<br>Kristine Warnecke   | 2                                     | 3<br>5:00 Catechism                     | 4  | 5                   | 6                                   | 7<br>Claire Beumer                           |
| 8  | 9<br>6:00 Elders<br>7:00 Council      | 10<br>Kenneth Hemsath<br>5:00 Catechism | 11<br>Doug Pieper<br>6:30 Choir/Chimes   | 12                  | 13                                  | 14   |
| 15   | 16                                    | 17<br>5:00 Catechism                    | 18<br>7:30 p.m. Ash<br>Wednesday<br>Service  | 19<br>Dennis Pieper | 20<br>George Baravik                | 21   |
| 22   | 23                                    | 24<br>5:00 Catechism                    | 25<br>6:30 Choir/Chimes<br>7:30 Lenten<br>Service  | 26                  | 27<br>Lillie Figura<br>Larry Pieper | 28<br>Amanda Ford<br>Dennis & Judy<br>Pieper |
| <b>Sunday Mornings:<br/>9:00 Sunday<br/>School/Bible Class<br/>10:00 Worship</b> | <b>Mondays:<br/>9-12 Office Hours</b> |   | <b>Wednesdays:<br/>9-12 Office Hours<br/>11-11:30 Prayer<br/>Service/Bible<br/>Study</b> |                     |                                     |  |