

# Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

July 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...*

*(The following is Rev. Matt Harrison's (LCMS President) response to the Supreme Court ruling)*

A one-person majority of the U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong – again. Some 40 years ago, a similarly activist court legalized the killing of children in the womb. That decision has to date left a wake of some 55 million Americans dead. Today, the Court has imposed same-sex marriage upon the whole nation in a similar fashion. Five justices cannot determine natural or divine law. Now shall come the time of testing for Christians faithful to the Scriptures and the divine institution of marriage (Matthew 19:3-6), and indeed, a time of testing much more intense than what followed Roe v. Wade.

Like Roe v. Wade, this decision will be followed by a rash of lawsuits. Through coercive litigation, governments and popular culture continue to make the central post-modern value of sexual freedom override “the free exercise of religion” enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

The ramifications of this decision are seismic. Proponents will seek to drive Christians and Christian institutions out of education at all levels; they will press laws to force faithful Christian institutions and individuals to violate consciences in work practices and myriad other ways. We will have much more to say about this.

During some of the darkest days of Germany, a faithful Lutheran presciently described how governments lose their claim to legitimate authority according to Romans 13.

The Caesar cult in its manifold forms, the deification of the state, is one great form of the defection from the [true] idea of the state. There are also other possibilities of such defection. The government can forget and neglect its tasks. When it no longer distinguishes between right and wrong, when its courts are no longer governed by the strict desire for justice, but by special interests, when government no longer has the courage to exercise its law, fails to exercise its duties, undermines its own legal order, when it weakens through its family law parental authority and the estate of marriage, then it ceases to be governing authority.

*(continued on the next page)*

*“Now shall come the time of testing for Christians faithful to the Scriptures and the divine institution of marriage...”*

## **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:**

- †From the Elders
- †Casual Class
- †Financial Update
- †Greeter Information
- †July Calendar

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



## Attendance

May 31 - 75

June 7 - 49

June 14 - 56

June 21 - 62

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

*(continued from page 1)* Raising such a question can lead to heavy conflicts of conscience. But it is fundamentally conceivable, and it has time and again become reality in history, that a governing authority has ceased to be governing authority. In such a case there may indeed exist a submission to a superior power. But the duty of obedience against this power no longer exists. [Hermann Sasse, "What Is the State?" (1932)]

As faithful Christians, we shall continue to be obedient to just laws. We affirm the human rights of all individuals and the inherent and equal value of all people. We respect the divinely given dignity of all people, no matter their sexual preference. We recognize that, under the exacting and demanding laws of God, we are indeed sinners in thought, word and deed, just as are all (Romans 3:9ff.). We confess that the "blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from

all our sins" (1 John 1:7). We confess that God's divine law of marriage and the entire Ten Commandments apply to all, and that so also the life-giving sacrifice of Christ on the cross is for all. It is a "righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe" (Romans 3:22).

However, even as we struggle as a church to come to a unified response to this blatant rejection of the entire history of humankind and its practice of marriage, "We shall obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29). Christians will now begin to learn what it means to be in a state of solemn conscientious objection against the state. We will resist its imposition of falsehood upon us, even as we continue to reach out to those who continue to be harmed by the ethic of radical sexual freedom, detached from God's blessing of marriage. And we will stand shoulder to shoulder with Christians, churches and people of good will who are resolute on this issue.

God help us. Amen.

## **From the Elders**

We believe the time has come to offer the Lord's body and blood to our members at every Divine Service. We have studied this at great length with the pastor, sharing what we have learned with all of you over the last few years. We see what a treasure and blessing the Sacrament is, and we have been made aware that a number of our members greatly desire the Sacrament every time we gather for worship. Therefore we will bring this up at the July Voters meeting.

We do want to make it very clear that no member should feel obligated to come to the Supper every time it's offered. God's grace should not be forced upon anyone. But who are we to stand in the way of those who desire God's grace in the blessed Sacrament often? We also want to make it clear that no one is to look down on, or think less of, any of our members who choose not to come up every time the Sacrament is offered.

Since we now have a new hymnal which allows us more variety, we will be able to offer the Supper with each Divine Service that we use. We are also thinking we will offer the Supper with the Matins service on the fifth Sundays. This can be done by adding confession and absolution prior to the Sacrament. We will not be offering the Lord's Supper on the day of our Sausage Dinner due to the large number of visitors who attend.

## **Casual Class**

Our first casual class was held on June 23 with eight people in attendance. We had fun while learning about Genesis 2. Our next class will be on Monday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m., and we will be looking at Genesis 3. Class lasts no more than an hour. Please consider joining us on July 20 for a fun, casual way to learn more about Genesis 3!



## Summer Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is continuing throughout the summer months. Our Sunday School teacher, Venita Mallon, is excited to be teaching the children of the congregation. We encourage parents to bring their children to Sunday School during the summer. Adult Bible Class meets during the Sunday School hour, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

## Membership Class

Due to recent requests, Pastor Bell will be starting a membership class sometime this summer. This is not only for those who would like to join our congregation, but also for those who would like a refresher course over Luther's Small Catechism. More information will be forthcoming.

## Financial Update

I have heard a few questions being asked, "How are we doing financially? Are we getting behind on our bills? Is it true we had to borrow a half dozen times from the Line of Credit?" The answers to these questions probably need a little explanation.

Financially, we continue to do very well on the Special Projects side of the ledger. Our savings account and Endowment Fund account are stable and are not being touched for expenses which they have not been designated. All of our bills are current and caught up.

It is true that we had to draw on our Line of Credit three times since last fall. In August \$3,000, in September \$2,500 and in October \$1,000. We then began to pay down the Line of Credit. In January the Voters decided to dedicate the Sausage Supper proceeds to the General Fund. We were able to completely pay down our Line of Credit and remained in the black until March.

On March 30, we drew on the Line of Credit for \$4,000. This allowed us to underwrite the cost of the Fish Fries and stay current with our bills. Since then we have paid down the Line of Credit by \$1,000 and plan to chip away at it over the next two months. In August-September, we will probably need to draw on it again when we encounter the bill to prepay our propane and our large annual insurance premium.

In summary, as in the past, we continue to be blessed on funds for special projects, but struggle to meet everyday operating expenses. The most practical way to minimize this problem is to increase gifts going through the white Current Envelope. Tom Kluesner, Chairman

## Attention Greeters!

Due to some changes in a couple of our greeter teams a new Greeter Schedule has been completed and will be available starting Sunday, July 12th in the Education Wing. From that date on please refer to the updated schedule for your assigned greeting dates through the end of the year. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact Marcy Menke at [636-228-4092](tel:636-228-4092). Thanks so much!

## Food Drive Update

A letter was recently received from Debbie Smith, Food Drive Committee, regarding the Augusta Community Food Drive. In total, \$700.00 was received along with donations of 42 large boxes of food and personal care products. The letter of thanks, along with a picture of the items donated, is posted on the bulletin board.

## Psalm 2:1-6

*In light of the recent Supreme Court decision, this Psalm is very applicable:*

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed

1 Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed,  
saying,

3 "Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.

5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6 "As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."

# July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday & Wednesday mornings 9-12	<b>Prayer Service                      and Bible Study:</b> Wednesday mornings 11-11:30		1 Ramona Hagedorn	2 Abbey Rinne	3	4
5	6	7	8  <b>7:30 Elders</b>	9	10	11
12 Holy Communion Sunday	13 Cole Latham  <b>7:00 Council</b>	14	15	16	17	18 Gordon Coates Zachary Freeman
19  <b>Voters Meeting                      after church</b>	20 Brian & Jennifer Pieper  <b>6:30 Casual Class</b>	21 Peter & Marcy Menke	22	23 Virginia Nadler	24 Jeanne Abbett	25
26	27 Doug & Michelle Charles	28	29	30 Jocelyn Coates	31 Tom Kluesner	