

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

October 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...

There is a story, as Luther tells it, about a man who had casually come to the baptism of a child and heard the words that are spoken at baptism. He was surprised at their power: *"If I knew that I, too, had been baptized with such words, I would never again be afraid of the devil."* And he is correct. The gifts are there. We hear the word. We see the baptism. We see God's rule over the church and the crises of the church--how it is protected against the enemy, how it conquers the devil and stands invincible against him. These gifts are present in baptism and blessed is he who recognizes them.

It is like when Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened in 2 Kings 6. The Syrians had laid siege against the city intent on destroying it. But when Elisha prayed, God opened the eyes of his servant to see that the mountains all around were filled with horses and chariots of fire.

"You who are immersing yourself in God's Word are having your eyes opened."

Those same horses and chariots of fire surround to protect the baptized from the evil one. But the devil does not let us see these gifts of God completely. And so we live as God's people, but fail to be grateful for Baptism and the Word. We become disturbed, even upset, over troubles in our life, especially in a year like this one. We fail to see God's gifts. We are like Elisha's servant before God opened his eyes. We see the enemy, but not God's protecting horses and chariots of fire.

It is true that we must have the Holy Spirit to see these gifts. And the Spirit is given regularly through the Word. You who are immersing yourself in God's Word are having your eyes opened. You are becoming less and less disturbed by the devilish troubles facing both the church and your own life. You are seeing more and more God's horses and chariots of fire surrounding you. In this month of the Reformation (October 31), you have the privilege of adding your voice to the faithful in singing, *"Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us. We tremble not, we fear no ill. They shall not overpower us. This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will. He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done. One little Word can fell him. (LSB 656 vs. 3)*

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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.



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



Sausage Supper Canceled

After much discussion and consideration, the Sausage Supper Committee recommended canceling the Sausage Supper this year. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has forced many changes in our day to day lives. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the church in lieu of donating your time and energy towards working at the dinner, you may mail a donation or put it in the offering plate. If you do so, please include your envelope number, so it can be recorded on your annual statement. Thank you!

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Work Day

The Trustees have scheduled a work day for Saturday, October 10 starting at 8:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to tidy up the church grounds as we approach the winter months. Please consider helping out if you are able. Thank you!

Worship Notes

Worship services are being held each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. We continue to practice precautionary measures, such as social distancing, no hand shaking, and single line communion.

We are continuing to provide a weekly video service for those who are not yet able to join us in church. This video worship service will be available on the church's website.

Pastor Bell posts a weekly devotion on Facebook and the church website. If you would like a printed copy of the sermon mailed to your home or if you have any other needs, please contact Pastor Bell at 636-228-4642 (church) or by cell phone at 636-485-2048.

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!

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

Meditation

*"So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him."
Matthew 14:29-31*

Peter was in the water with Jesus. And he began to sink beneath the waves. He did what you and I do every day—he took his eyes off Jesus. He worried about the storm around him. We do that. We take our eyes off Christ. We think that a glance, now and then, is good enough. But the storms are always around us. Your troubles will never leave you alone. And they will pull you down into the depths—and like Peter, you and I are helpless to prevent it.

But Jesus is in the water with you. As He reached out His hand to Peter, so in Holy Baptism He joins Himself to you—and He will not let you fall. The storm of God's judgment cannot hurt you, for Jesus was swallowed up by that storm on the cross for you. To fix your eyes on Jesus means to go to, and remember, your baptism daily—remember who you are: a forgiven child of God for Jesus' sake; remember that your God will never leave you nor forsake you. His arm is stronger than all your troubles.