

GOOD NEWS FROM CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH



May 2020

Reflections from Pastor Johnson

“Open Eyed”

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?” Luke 24:31-32

The Emmaus disciples knew the facts. Jesus suffered injustice by the likes of Judas the betrayer, the chief priest and elders of the people of Israel, beatings by Roman governor Pontius Pilate and his unjust death sentence, and Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. Three days later they are making their seven mile walk back to Emmaus and talking with each other along the way. They are interrupted by a stranger who, much to their surprise, does not know all that has happened to their dead, prophet and teacher, Jesus of Nazareth.

They explain the forensic facts they know have happened and how some women from their small band of disciples amazed them, saying they saw angels who told them Jesus was no longer in the tomb and that He had risen just as He had said. Then the stranger opened His mouth and revealed all that Moses and the prophets had spoken about Him. He called them foolish ones and slow to believe. The day is well spent as they arrive at their Emmaus destination. They invite their new walking companion to stay the night. While He is at table with them He breaks bread, gives thanks, and gives it to them. Now they know who had opened the Word to them as they walked. The light bulb of faith has come on and they confess. **THAT WAS JESUS! HE IS ALIVE!**

It's true! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I just love this Emmaus account from Luke's Gospel! **Word and Sacrament is the very thing that opens the eyes of faith to believe all that has been written about the Messiah who would come to redeem Israel and the Christ who has suffered, died and rose victorious on Easter morn.**

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Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 AM Worship

10:40 AM Children's

Sunday School

10:45 AM Adult Bible Study

Rev. Russell Johnson

(586)342-1384

Email-givenforyou@gmail.com

Rev. George Hamilton

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. John Panning

Pastor Emeritus

Spring Voters Meeting

On May 17, following worship, we hope to hold our Spring Voters Meeting. At this meeting, we will be voting for one half of the council positions. If you see a position that you are interested in, take a look at the job description. Contact Ann in the office for a copy or ask any council member.

These are the positions up for election is 2020

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Financial Secretary
4. Chair of the Board of Stewardship
5. Chair of the Board of Education
6. Chair of the Board of Missions
7. Elders
8. Trustees

Some positions have candidates. This will be an exciting time for COS, to be involved. Any questions, ask Jean Vizithum.

In His Service

A Note from The Board of Elders and Covid-19

The Board of Elders met with Pastor Johnson on Saturday April 25th and discussed some matters concerning Covid-19 and ongoing plans to prepare for the time (soon) that we will be able to worship together again. It will be “different” in the sense of some external matters but the important stuff, the one thing needful Christ Jesus is never “different”. He is the same today and always. His Love, His Forgiveness never changes and how He has compassionately and lovingly given us His Gifts through the means of grace, Word and Sacrament are and always will be available to us by His gracious mercy. As a church, we need to take preventive measures and commit ourselves to prayer. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice and entrust our lives to Christ. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered and remember and remind each other that we belong to Christ.

Know that the Board of Elders and all are praying for you and for our church body. Continue to pray for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. Pray for all pastors and for all congregations and for God’s Holy Spirit to protect us as HIS church. Be Not Afraid.

The apostle Paul says it well. *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).*

We should be concerned. The coronavirus is real. But we cannot and we will not be afraid. We are the Church and, together, we belong to Christ. In Christ and His Service, The Board of Elders

Pastor Johnson continued....

Today as we shelter in place it is easy to become discouraged and allow Corona to steal our hearts away to fear and trembling. We long to be in the Lord's house together and be done with recorded video and live streams of services as our only means to hear The Word proclaimed. Our hearts long for face to face personal greetings, times of fellowship, standing and talking with one another. Time praying, hearing the Word and singing the hymns of our parents and grandparents together. Unlike the disciples of Luke 24, we know and have the "rest of the story" (as Paul Harvey used to say). So, let us not be foolish ones but **rest on the adequacy of that which we have received from Jesus.**

We have His Word, and our baptismal faith declares that we are never alone. Jesus the risen Lord and Christ is with us in the hospitals, Extended Care facilities, nursing homes, workplaces, our homes, everywhere, and all the time. Our risen Lord has delivered us through His all-sufficient sacrifice on the cross for our sin. And, it is that very body and blood given and shed for you which you last received at table with Him that sustains us through this current pandemic. We will eat and drink it together at His table again. Our prayerful cry is, "soon, Lord, soon."

Now may our risen from the dead and ascended into heaven Lord Jesus Christ keep our eyes of faith "wide open" to receiving the blessings of His Spirit who causes our hearts to burn as He unfolds the Scriptures into our hearts, minds and mouths as we go and tell the world, "Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia. AMEN. In Christ's Love, Pastor Johnson

Missionary Information from John Klug

Mission Question for May: What does it take for reluctant Christians to confidently share their faith? Following is an excerpt from *The Lutheran Layman* Winter 2020 issue which addresses this subject.

"Is there a person(s) in your life with whom you'd like to have a spiritual conversation? Maybe it's a son or daughter whose life is unstable, and they're resistant to the things of God. It might be a close friend with whom you've shared many things, but never those kinds of things... We all have our reasons for not sharing our faith. One thing's for certain though, no matter how well prepared we are, or how much we end up muddling through the conversation, it's the Holy Spirit who calls the person to faith. There's great relief in that, too. Naturally, we want to be prepared for spiritual conversations (see 2 Timothy 2:15),"

How can we prepare? Lutheran Hour Ministries has a growing catalog of Christ-centered outreach tools that you can use to empower your spiritual conversations and keep them more Jesus-focused. Go to www.lhm.org. Select resources/learn for helps for you. See the Missions bulletin board in the hallway for current news from the missionaries we support.

THANKS FOR FAITHFUL GIVING

We, the members of the Christ Our Savior family, have been continuing to support the ministry of the COS ministry with tithes and offerings. Thank you for your faithfulness in sending in your gifts while we have not been able to worship together as Christ's body.

A Few Facts on Where We Are: Deposits into the general fund for first four weeks that we went without Sunday worship were \$15,288, an average of \$3,822 per week.

The giving for the first three months of the year (including two weeks of the shutdown) provided for deposits into the general fund of \$40,860, compared to a budget of \$53,300. The average giving per week was \$3,143. In addition, there were gifts in the first quarter into our special fund accounts of \$18,378 to meet other needs of the church beyond the budgeted expenses.

We are ministering together in chaotic times. Faithful giving in this context is worth noting. Keep it up.



Advice from our Parish Nurse, Kathryn Mackey

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AND HEALTH BOARD

Please take the time to check out her board in the back of sanctuary next to refreshments.

Kathryn Mackey will be taking blood pressure on non-communion Sundays.

This Month is National Arthritis Awareness, Mental Health Month, Osteoporosis Awareness, Skin Cancer Awareness, Woman's Health Week (May 10-16), National Nurses' Day is May 13, World No Tobacco Day May 31, National Senior Health & Fitness Day May 29, Better Sleep Month & National Stroke Awareness.

Six areas to focus on for preventive whole-life living

1. Type 2 Diabetes - contributes to heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure and amputations. Minor changes in physical activity, keeping weight under control & eating healthy help prevent or delay diabetes as we age.
2. Fitness - Fitness isn't just how many pushups you can do. It's the whole package of physical activity, nutrition, hygiene & rest. They all contribute to physical, social fitness and emotional health.
3. Healthy Heart - Don't smoke, exercise regularly, eat fruits, vegetables, whole grains & low-fat meats and dairy.
4. Nutrition - Eat more: whole grains, fruits, vegetables, healthy fats, moderate amount of meat, dairy & protein. Eat less heavy fats, high cholesterol food, high sugar foods, processed foods, high salt food & alcohol.
5. Obesity - too much weight is associated with cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes & various cancers
6. Smoking Cessation - smoking is a leading cause of lung cancer, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, vascular stenosis, emphysema and birth defects. Second hand smoke is harmful to non-smokers.

Rev. Herbert Graupner passed to his eternal rest on April 27, 2020. Many among us at Christ Our Savior congregation will remember his long ministry career at Trinity Lutheran Church in Muskegon. He is survived by his wife Jean Graupner. A memorial service will be held at Trinity when conditions allow for it

Start a Christmas Jar Tradition

A Christmas Jar is a pickle jar, peanut butter jar, mason jar or anything else you have to collect spare change each day.

All coins are dedicated to the jar all year long, and during the week before Christmas you carefully select someone to give it to anonymously.

Simply put your jar on their porch, in their car, on their desk—wherever—and you could change their life...for good!

Here is a story: You can say I won a jar in a secret Santa prize at our church Christmas dinner yesterday. And what a prize it is too! I thought it was just a jar you use for saving money into for Christmas. But I had no idea just how special it was until I read the story behind it. It is a “miracle jar”, and I hope to be able to fill it and pass it on to bring someone joy next Christmas—the same joy I felt in receiving it, regardless that it was empty and in a gift box.



HAND2HAND



Please hold your contributions until school begins again in the Fall. This program is only done during the school year. Thank you for your generosity. We packed 55 breakfast bags and 55 snack bags a week with 3 items per bag.

Shari Atkinson and Jane Martinson

NEW LIGHTS AND NEW SPACES

Your Trustees report that we now have new light fixtures burning LED bulbs in the offices, kitchen, classrooms, restrooms and hallways of the church building. Notice what you can now see more clearly. Take heart that our electric bill reflects the difference in much lower monthly cost. We look forward to enjoying the improvement that shines new light into the building we have not walked through recently. This is “phase 1” of the brightening project. Phase 2 will re-light the worship area of the church with dimmable LED fixtures. That change will further lower our energy use and cost.

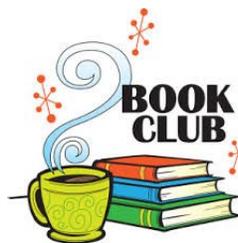


COS also has a new storage shed on the back of the parking lot. The goal here is to store seasonal decoration materials and a variety of needed but infrequently used things to free up space in our primary building.

Special donations from generous givers provided funds for both the lighting fixtures and the storage building. Thanks to the donors of both the funds and the installation work.

SAVE CANCELLED STAMPS

The Michigan district of the LWML is collecting used stamps to support Becky Grossman's Ministry with LBT (Lutheran Bible Translators)! Simply save your cancelled stamps by cutting them off the envelope leaving a 1/8 inch border. All stamps are useful, but foreign or commemorative ones are more valuable.



Our next book we will be "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Jenni Brinker will be picking up our copies from the Holland Public Library as soon as it opens.

If you are interested in joining our group, contact Jenni Brinker or Ann Campbell.

Worship for at home folks:

Worship Anew –

11:30 A.M. on local cable channel 54 or Xfinity channel 21. or www.cosholland.com by going to the "Sermons & Media" section.

Lutheran Hour radio – Sunday morning broadcast

6:30 (EDT) 105.7 FM WSRW Grand Rapids

7:00 (EDT) 720 AM WGN Chicago

BIBLE READERS



New sign-up sheet for 2020 is up if you would like to sign up for Bible Reading for Sundays.

REFRESHMENTS - Start up to be announced

Please consider signing up for refreshments. The sign-up sheet is in the hall next to the kitchen doors. Contact Ann Campbell with any Questions. (269) 903-5708

GROWING IN FAITH GARDEN

Need a quiet conversation with God? Please feel free to use our garden as a space of your own. You don't need to sign up for a plot to enjoy all that He provides for us. Stop by any-

FREEZER MEALS

There are meals available. If you need a meal, please call the office 738-0100 Monday through Friday 9 am to 1 pm to arrange either pick up or delivery.



Spring Rally Update

The LWML Spring Rally scheduled for Saturday, May 16 in Whitehall has been canceled. The Michigan District LWML 2020 Convention is still scheduled for July 10-12 in Gaylord. If you would like further information regarding the convention in Gaylord, go to lwmlmichigan.org and click on the Convention 2020 information. You can also call Helen Travis at 616-335-5145, or text her at 616-834-8629 for more information.



Editorial - Pastor George Hamilton

LIVING IN A NEW WORLD – Chapter 1

I hear the same message in many forms – on the phone, in e-mail messages, from TV news, and from social media – “We have never been here before.” The combination of world-wide epidemic unfolding in four months, economic shut-down in a few days with jobs lost, and stay at home living requirements that stretch for weeks creates a revolutionary situation. Now we all must discover what the new normal will become. We hope we can now restart life, but the restart will not bring us immediately back to the old normal.

Try to move away from physical safety and economic survival for a moment. We are in a bigger picture. What has God planned for us in His “restart” agenda? Where will He take us in our spiritual life? We are living in a new world. We are about to turn the page to chapter 1 of that new world. What should we expect?

- Many of us and many in the world have fears.
- Many who do not know Jesus have uncertainties.
- Jesus holds the real answers to those fears and uncertainties.
- The people of the church of Jesus Christ hold the keys to unlock those answers.

Now may be the time God chooses to bring spiritual renewal into the secular world. Our challenge is to be ready to meet people with their fears and questions. We can be the open door through which the gospel touches lives in a new way.



2020 Church Personnel and Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Russell Johnson

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Ministries and Outreach, Shari Atkinson

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Christian Life Coordinator, Ann Campbell

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Pianist

Ginny Liao

Organists

Cathy Roush Phone: (616) 392-9537

Helen Travis Phone: (616) 335-5145



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 John Panning
- 5 Bernice Wentzel
- 6 Ann Campbell, Colleen Komorowski
- 14 Bill Kievit
- 19 Deb Meschke
- 24 Chris Cooper
- 26 Shari Atkinson, Peter Bosch

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Mark & Sue Johnson
- 12 Mike & Lila Overbeek
- 20 Jerry & Nelva DeBoer

**CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**3151 North 120th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424**

Phone 616-738-0100

Website: www.cosholland.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Service

9:15 a.m.

Children's Sunday School

10:30 am

Adult Bible Class

10:45 a.m.

*"Grow God's Kingdom
Share God's Word
Live Christ's Love"*