

GOOD NEWS FROM CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH



December
2020

Reflections from Pastor Johnson

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Christ Our Savior,

Jesus told us, as Christians we are fed by The Word of God, and in this season of pandemic the best thing we can do is be fed by His Word through the means of grace, our feelings and emotions are fickle but The Word of The Lord never is. *But He answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him" (Psalms 37:5-6).*

Advent is a season of preparation for us all. Pandemic or not, whether we are able to meet in person, or are viewing on YouTube or Facebook. In the season of Advent, the people of God wait for the coming of Jesus, their Messiah. God's Old Testament people waited for the coming of the promised Messiah with faith. With that same faith, God's New Testament people wait for the second coming of Jesus.

Sometimes we get tired of waiting, really most of the time. We certainly have got tired waiting for a vaccine or cure for covid-19. Most of us remember years ago as children, in December the time seemed endless as we waited for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. God's Old Testament people did get tired of waiting for the fulfillment of His promises. To counteract this, God encouraged His people as they waited. We need this same encouragement in these last days.

In Advent we wait with patience. The Psalmist confidently sings, *"Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for Him."* This Psalm was directed toward God's Old Testament people who saw the reality of how the wicked prospered and the righteous suffered. This is a waiting of faith because it rests in the Lord. The Psalmist asserts, *"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act."* Patience means that faith never stops waiting confidently for God to act. We live in an impatient time, we want it all and we want it all now. But there is a deeper growing impatience in people today with the political process and the economic future, especially as we deal with the pandemic. As pastors we also grow impatient because of the press of things that have to be done now in so many different ways and the problems we encounter in our ministries. There is a deeper and more dangerous impatience.

Continued on page 2 -

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 AM Worship

10:30 AM Children's Sunday
School

10:40 AM Adult Bible Study

Rev. Russell Johnson
(586)342-1384

Email-givenforyou@gmail.com

Rev. George Hamilton
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John Panning
Pastor Emeritus

Advent Services
Wednesday
4 pm

December 2
December 9
December 16

+

Christmas Eve
7 pm

Christmas Day
9:15 am

Reflections from Pastor Johnson - continued from page 1

Spiritual impatience is a very real danger as we grow discouraged with the long wait for God to act. When things don't go our way, we grow impatient with God. We need to hear the words of the Psalmist, *"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will bring it to pass (act)."* God will act. He has already acted on our behalf by sending His only Son into this world of sin and death to save and rescue us. This trust in the God Who has acted will enable us to be still before the Lord and to patiently wait for Him. In our needs, in our troubles, in our suffering God is not far from any of us. Learn to trust in Him and to wait patiently for Him to act.

Be patient and quietly wait. The Christian does not simply say that things are bad and we need to muddle through. We are waiting expectantly for God's answer, God's help, God's rescue. Endurance means waiting for someone real and something real. **God is real. God's salvation is real. Jesus second coming is real.** Advent waiting looks forward to God's ultimate gift of everlasting life. **For God gave up His own Son for our sins and raised Him from the dead for our righteousness in order that we might live lives of patience waiting for something that is a done deal. We already are the special people of God. We are already his children through baptism. We already are people of faith. We already are citizens of heaven on the way home.** We already have a foretaste of the new, perfect life to come. And yet we are waiting to receive the end of our salvation. The Psalmist encourages us to hang on to God, and therefore to wait patiently for Him because He will act on our behalf. This advent we are reminded not just to be stoically patient because things happen. We are to wait patiently for God to act in our lives and in history. It's like grandparents at the airport expectantly waiting to see their grandchildren. In a picture that Jesus uses, it's like patiently and expectantly waiting for your wedding day.

Don't worry about the way things are going in this world of Satan's domination. Don't fret over the one who progresses in his own way, over the man who carries out evil devices. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him to act. Then Christmas will be a real celebration of joy. This is the season to prepare for His coming! Blessings to you and your families as you wait on the Lord,

Pastor Johnson

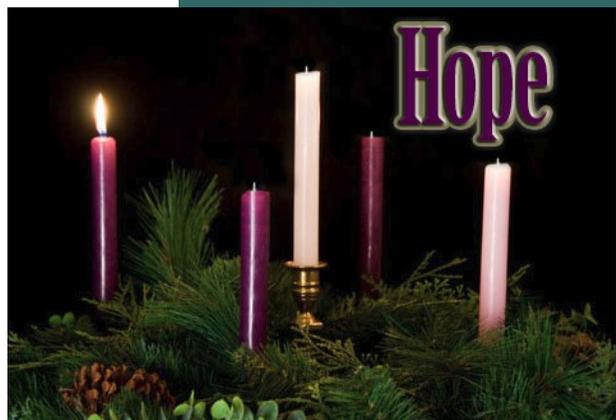
Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts

The news and evolving reports out of Beirut following the deadly explosion of August 4 has had many of our heads whirling in the last couple months. As many of you know, three containers of quilts and kits were in the port awaiting customs clearance on the day of the blast. Immediate reports from the port authority indicated that the containers could not have survived.

A fourth container had been separated at the port in the United States and was still on the water at the time of the explosion. It was rerouted to the port in Tripoli. As we joined with many of you in our shared lament, we were deeply inspired and humbled by your determination to keep going, keep creating, keep serving, keep sharing your love with our neighbors all over the world.

On the morning of August 26, we received an urgent update the containers were intact! Finally, we learned on September 22 that, despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers was not broken. The placement in the port, inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers, protected the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination. We give thanks to God that the love of hundreds of Lutheran congregations contained in this shipment will be able to be shared with more than 24,000 of our neighbors in Beirut and across the country of Lebanon. From the ashes of this crisis rises a beautiful ray of hope: your love, intact and powerful, in just the right place, at just the right time.

Join us Wednesday @ 4 pm for Advent services. Dec 2, 9, and 16



Ministries & Outreach

Shari Atkinson

Attention knitters

It's been quite awhile since I've asked your help but the weather is getting cooler and it's time to think about knitting another prayer shawl. Our supply is starting to dwindle. If you can't find the prayers and pattern please talk to Shari Atkinson 403 3955 or 399 5751. God bless your hands as you do this wonderful work for the comfort of someone who is suffering.



COS LWML News

Ladies you have an opportunity to join in on the fun every Thursday @ 11:30 am or once a month the second Tuesday of the Month @ 6 pm

- Every Thursdays 11:30 am lunch, Bible Study and projects.
- Second Tuesday every month 6pm-7:30 pm Bible Study/Devotion, food, fellowship and projects.



Please note- Thursday afternoons will resume Dec 10

Financial Secretary Highlights

New envelopes will be available for 2021 at the back table.

If your name was missed let me know. I will assign a box # to you.

End of year statements will be ready as soon as possible in January.

Thanks again for your contributions for God's work at Christ our Savior,

In His Service
Bruce Campbell

JOIN THE DANIEL STUDY GROUP – The Saturday men's Bible study group is currently reading through "Daniel the Prophet." We meet from 9:30 to 11:00 on Saturday mornings. Bring your Bible, and be prepared to gain great insights from Daniel concerning how to function as a faithful God-follower in a hostile social and political environment. Dec 12, and 19th

Parish Nurse Ministry



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AND HEALTH BOARD

Blood Pressure screenings will be December 13 and 27th following the worship service.

DONATE YOUR BOTTLES & CANS



Place your bags of bottles in the youth room or smaller amounts may be placed in the green bin in the kitchen.

All monies collected will be put toward new lights in the Nave.



We need your help

For the month of December, we will be delivering December 17. This means that we will need a total of 1,050 items. We provide breakfast bags and snack bags along with West Shore Church and we are now an official church for hand2hand. The following items are needed:

- ◆ Breakfast - applesauce, Pop Tarts, granola bars (No oatmeal needed this month)
- ◆ Snacks - fruit cups, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, cookies

Each item needs to be individually wrapped

You may place your donations either in the box or on the table on the West wall of the church. Thank you for your generosity.



**American
Red Cross**

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Blood that is. We will be sponsoring another blood drive at COS on Tuesday January 13 from noon to 5:45. Please consider giving blood, you could save three lives with your 1 pint of blood. If you are willing to give please go to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up for an appointment. If you are able to help with set up before the drive the truck arrives about 10:30. I need help moving chairs and tables as well as setting up the drive. At 6:00 I need help to put the tables and chairs back in place. I also need volunteers to serve refreshments to the donors. If you are available to help please see Shari Atkinson or call her at 616 403 3955.

Christmas Jars

It's already December and hopefully your jars that you were given last year are overflowing. Here are a few ideas on how to distribute them. If you already know who you want to give it to, then do it in secret. If you aren't sure, you can turn in all your change for cash and hand out random Christmas cards with cash while you shop to complete strangers. What a wonderful way to bless someone.



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The Divine Service and our Liturgy

In the Scripture lessons, the reading of God's Word, God does as He promises in Romans, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ." So it is that God's Holy Spirit comes to us as we hear the Word, and He gives and builds us up in the true faith. These Scripture lessons were selected for the Sundays of the church year and historically reflect a unifying theme. The Scripture lessons, the Introit, the Collect of the day, and the gradual all share this common theme and are called the Propers of the day. As you look at a calendar of the church year, every third year, these Propers will always be the same on those given Sundays in the church year calendar.

In Christ and His Service,

Pastor Johnson

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 A.M. 105.7 FM WSRW Grand Rapids

7:00 A.M. 720 AM WGN Chicago

"The devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God....Music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity, and other devices."

— Martin Luther

LOCAL BENEVOLENCES

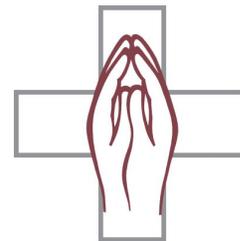
Each month the Elders choose a local benevolence to support. One of the recent recipients was Solid Rock Ministries, a Christ centered 501(c)3 organization of volunteers that do home repairs for low income and disabled people in the Holland Zeeland area.

Worship Service Readers

Please check your calendars and sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board if you would like to read the Old Testament and Epistle Lessons for the Divine Service. Pastor Johnson will meet with you and go over the Readings the week before you are assigned.



THE CONFESSIONS CORNER—Pastor Johnson



Confessions Corner

Do all Lutheran churches have the same view of the Book of Concord?

No. Many Lutheran churches in the world today have been thoroughly influenced by the liberal theology that has taken over most so-called “mainline” Protestant denominations in North America and the large Protestant state churches in Europe, Scandinavia, and elsewhere. The foundation of much of modern theology is the view that the words of the Bible are not actually God’s words but merely human opinions and reflections of the personal feelings of those who wrote the words. Consequently, confessions that claim to be true explanations of God’s Word are now regarded more as historically conditioned human opinions, rather than as objective statements of truth. This would explain why some Lutheran churches enter into fellowship arrangements with non-Lutheran churches teaching things in direct conflict with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Do other churches have confessions like the Lutheran Church?

Yes, they do. Most other churches have confessions scattered throughout various books. The Book of Concord is unique among all churches in the world, since it gathers together the Lutheran Church’s most normative expressions of the Christian faith into a single book that has been used for nearly five hundred years as a fixed point of reference for the Lutheran Church. Other churches have various catechisms and confessions they can point to, but few have as complete a collection of confessions that has received as much widespread use and support, for so long a time, as the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580. Next Month summing things up.

In Christ and His Service,

Pastor Johnson



LWML Tuesday, December 15, 6 – 7:30 pm

Come join a fun group of COS women for devotion, fellowship, project and a snack. Bring: 1. Your Bible, 2. Your Mites, 3. Knitting or crocheting if you want to keep your hands busy while you’re listening, 4. One or two items to use in hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. Hygiene kit items needed are: a. Bath towel (dark color recommended), b. Wash cloth (dark color recommended), c. Bath-size bar of soap, d. Toothbrush, e. Sturdy comb, f. Band -Aids (1/2” or 3/4”).

Christmas Poinsettias



The cost is \$8 for a 6” pot that may be taken home after Christmas. Plant colors are Red, White, Pink, Marble (Pink Stripes on White) and Jingle Bells (White Flecks on Red.) The order needs to be placed by Monday, December 7th. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or if you missed signing up you may call the office.

Please be sure to mark your check “flowers” when you place it in the offering plate.



Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God’s people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

2020 Church Personnel and Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Russell Johnson

Cell Phone: (586)342-1384

Email: givenforyou@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant, Ann Campbell

Cell Phone: (269)903-5708

Email work: coshlld@sbcglobal.net

Email home: bacampbell99@hotmail.com

Custodian, George Lee

Phone: (616)294-1652

Church Council

President, Jean Vizithum Phone: (616)886-0036

Vice President, Rob Shinsky Phone: (616)953-9125

Head Elder, Tom Nunheimer Phone (616)994-9558

Secretary, MaryAnn Hamilton Phone: (616)566-1421

Financial Sec Bruce Campbell Phone: (269)355-1274

Treasurer, Lila Overbeek Phone: (231)740-1613

Stewardship, Pat Desire' Phone: (773)756-7792

Education, Jenni Brinker Phone: (616)502-5932

Evangelism, Pat VanSlooten Phone: (616)402-3462

Missions, Esther Klug Phone: (269)561-2925

Ministries and Outreach, Shari Atkinson
Phone: (616)399-5751

Youth Director

Carol Garnsey Phone: (616) 772-9763

Cell: (616) 566-2190

Christian Life Coordinator,

Ann Campbell Phone: (269)903-5708

Nursery Coordinator

Rhea Burghuis Phone: (616)566-2850

Elders

Head Elder, Tom Nunheimer Phone: (616)994-9558

Vice Chairman, Art Fenrich Phone: (269)751-8323

Elder, John Bareman Phone: (616)403-8061

Elder, Heath Brinker Phone: (616)502-5932

Trustee Chair and Board

Trustee Chair, Rick Elushik Phone: (616)748-5693

Phone: (616)212-1859

John Bareman Phone: (616)403-8061

Ken Reimink Phone: (616)566-0196

Peter Schraudt Phone: (616)610-0419

Ray Crockford Phone: (616)218-3997

Pianist

Ginny Liao

Organists

Cathy Roush Phone: (616)392-9537

Helen Travis Phone: (616)335-5145



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

6 - Joe Beel

13 - Julia Dufon

16 - Bryan Travis

21 - Natalie Johnson

31 - Lisa Fenrich

Solomon Lee

ANNIVERSARIES

12 - Tom & Karen Nunheimer

20 - Bill & Linda Kievit



CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3151 North 120th Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

Phone 616-738-0100

Website: www.cosholland.com

Rev. Russell Johnson

Cell: (586)342-1384

Email: givenforyou@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service 9:15 am

Midweek 12:00 pm

Children's Sunday School 10:30 am

Adult Bible Class 10:40 a.m.

"Receive God's Grace
Grow God's Kingdom
Share God's Word
Live Christ's Love"

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 12 pm Prayer Service 4 pm Advent Service 6 pm Bell's	3	4	5
6 9:15 Communion	7	8	9 12 pm Prayer Service 4 pm Advent Service 6 pm Bell's	10 11:30 am WSCOS	11	12 9:30 Men's Bible Study
13 9:15 Worship Children's Program Sunday School & Bible Study	14	15 6:30 pm LWML	16 12 pm Prayer Service 4 pm Advent Service 6 pm Bells	17 11:30 am WSCOS	18	19 9:30 Men's Bible Study
20 9:15 Com- munion Sunday School & Bible Study	21	22	23 12 pm Prayer Service	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 9:15 Christmas Service	26
27 9:15 Worship No Sunday School or Bible Study	28	29	30 12 pm Prayer Service	31 New Years Eve		