

# GOOD NEWS FROM CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



January  
2021

## Reflections from Pastor Johnson



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I read once that history is written by the victors. While this is obviously true, that does not necessarily mean that such history is necessarily false. It is true, for example, that the Puritans were certainly running away from persecution. They were not treated well wherever they went. But as true as this is, they were also running toward something. They were seeking their own self-determination. They were running toward a destiny born of their desire to fashion a new world designed according to their values and defined by their own religious precepts. They were not alone.

Our own history within the Missouri Synod has a similar story of a people running away from religious persecution. It was not sudden or simple but it was certainly real. Yet there was something else real. They had an idea of not only *the* new world but *a* new world, a world of their own creation in which not only were they free from persecution but free to build a society and a culture to reflect their confession and their values.

As with the Puritans, the beginning was not quite picture perfect. Their esteemed leader became, at least in their own minds, an unbearable dictator. The morality of the leader was in question and, in the end, their solution was a different kind of morality made possible with a rowboat and some sturdy hands to row it. In the end, another strong leader emerged and a new storyline was written.

Most religious movements are movements not only away from one thing but toward another. That is the pattern of history. But is it God's way? That is the great temptation. We want not only to believe that God will be with us in suffering but that if we wait long enough and work hard enough we can build an alternative in which we no longer suffer. To the victor belong the spoils. And that is part of what we

Continued on page 2 -

## Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:15 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Children's Sunday  
School
- 10:40 AM Adult Bible Study

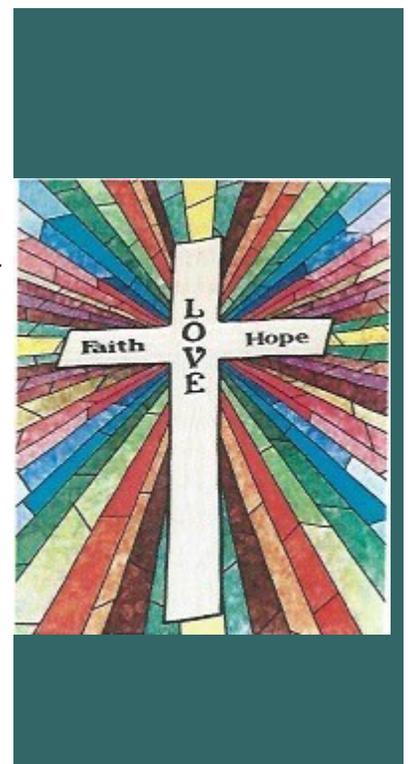
*Rev. Russell Johnson*

*(586)342-1384*

*Email-givenforyou@gmail.com*

Rev. George Hamilton

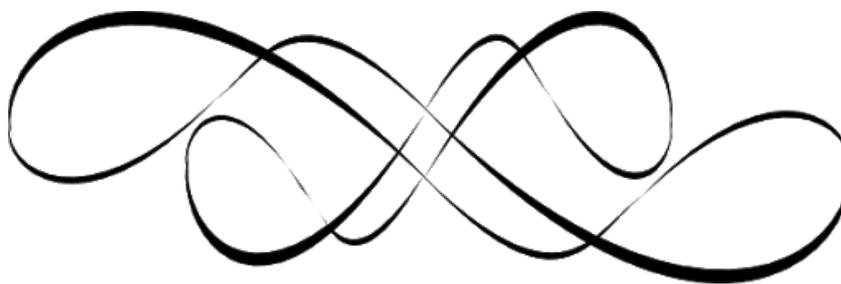
Pastor Emeritus



Reflections from Pastor Johnson - continued from page 1

want. We want the right and the power to create something new. That is our temptation. Left or right, liberal or conservative, progressive or fundamentalist, we want to build. If we could be in charge, then things would be better. But this attractive idea is a false one. God has not placed us to build a kingdom or create a new world or fix what is wrong. Don't get me wrong -- we are not here to make matters worse. But the Kingdom of God is not a geographical province carved out for our benefit. The Kingdom of God is in but not of the world. We are here but citizens of a heavenly kingdom. We are united not by philosophical ideas but by baptismal water, by the mystery of a God who comes in flesh, and by the fellowship of a table where the food is flesh and the drink is blood. How easy it is to forget that and turn our attention to kingdom building. Sadly too often we feel that unless we are kingdom building, (doing something) we fear that the Gospel is irrelevant, its power weak, and we are without purpose. As long as Satan keeps telling us this, and we keep believing his lies we will work harder at making a difference, than we do preserving the faith and doing God's bidding by preaching and teaching the Word and trusting in the Sacraments to deliver what they signify. And the Church will grow weaker. Remember our Kingdom is not of this world and God in Christ Jesus has given us all things needed.

In Christ and His Service,  
Pastor Johnson



### **The Mission Field is here: the time is now!**

POBLO missionaries and ambassadors continue to share the hope and love of Jesus in Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Iowa, California, Texas, Missouri and Wisconsin. We are excited to inform you we now have 43 International Friendship Centers (IFC's) across America. We encourage the start of new IFC's in areas that have a high concentration of Muslims, Indus, Sikhs and Buddhists and launch POBLO's outreach and human care projects. We build partnerships with districts, congregations and individuals, conduct workshops on Eastern religions, especially Islam and continuously work on new church planting in the areas with high ethnic presence.

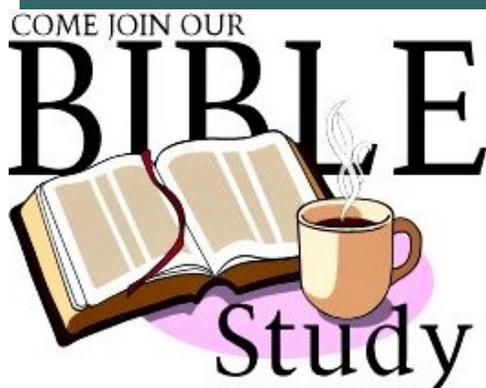
You are our partners in this great work of God. Our growth and our success is all because of His grace and because we have you as partners in missions. We thank the Lord for you. Our 27 years of successful ministry with proven results is all because of you.

Due to coronavirus, our support has been 37% less this year compared to the two previous two years. At this time, we are prayerfully challenging you to contribute if you are able.

[www.poblo.org](http://www.poblo.org)

## The Saturday morning men's Bible Study group meets 9:30-11:00 am.

Will re-sume January 2, 9, 16, 23 location to be announced either in person or zoom.



## 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 6:00pm-7:30 pm Bible Study/Devotion, food, fellowship and projects.



## 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.



## Financial Secretary Highlights

Dear Faithful members,  
Your contributions are appreciated. I shall endeavor to have end of year statements out in early January. If there are errors you need corrected, please let me know. Please pick up your envelopes on the table near the kitchen.

Yours in Christ's love,  
Bruce Campbell  
Financial Secretary  
269-355-1274  
bhcamp47@yahoo.com

## LWML EVENING MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 12 @ 6:00 pm. Join us for a short Bible study, a snack, putting together hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train, and getting reacquainted . Bring 1. your Bible 2. Your mites 3. knitting or crocheting (if you want to keep your hands busy) 4. one or two items to use in hygiene kits . Hygiene kit items needed are a. bath towel and/or wash cloth (dark color recommended) b. bath-size bar of soap c. toothbrush d. sturdy comb e. Band-Aids (1/2" or 3/4"). Think about how Covid has made a positive impact in your life (possibly a new tradition for the holidays?) and we'll exchange thoughts!

## Parish Nurse Ministry



### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AND HEALTH BOARD

Kathryn Mackey, our Parish Nurse will be doing blood pressure screenings January 10 and 24 following the worship service, Lord willing.

### March For Life

January 23, 2021 11:00 A.M.

Centennial Park (corner of 10th & Central

January 23 marks the 48th anniversary of the date of infamous Roe vs Wade. A devotional & Prayer Service for unborn children will be held after the march @ 11:30 at Central Ave CRC, 259 Central Ave The event is free.

Sponsored by Right to Life Holland



### We need your help

This month we especially need applesauce, pudding cups and small juice boxes. You can find little juice boxes at Dollar General 4/\$1

- ◆ 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 12 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](http://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.

### SPECIAL OFFERING

Due to Covid this past December, we were unable to help out the bell ringers. We will be having a special offering for the Salvation Army on Sunday, January 10th. Please place your offering in the basket located at the back of the Nave. You may make your checks out to the Salvation Army.



## The Divine Service and our Liturgy Old Testament Lesson

The Old Testament lesson is God's Word, the promises and prophecies that pointed forward to the coming Messiah. Following the reading of that word the reader says, "This is the Word of the Lord." To which the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God." God works in the Word that is heard, we give thanks that He would speak to us.

### Epistle Lesson

An Epistle is a letter, so these are readings from one of the writings of one of the apostles. These ● Epistles are the Word of God penned by Apostles. They were written usually to a specific person or group of people. God caused them to be recorded that they might be passed on to us. In ● these, we are given the truth that is in Jesus ● Christ for our faith and life.

### The Gradual

The gradual is a bridge of praise that connects the Old Testament life and New Testament life to Christ, who is the speaker actor of the Gospel lessons. This verse is most usually taken from the Psalms, yet another Scripture texts of praise may be used at different seasons of the church year. Following this good word, we respond by singing the praise of the triple Alleluia.

"I'll trust in God's unchanging  
Word  
Till soul and body sever,  
For, though all things shall pass  
away,  
HIS WORD SHALL STAND  
FOREVER!"  
— Martin Luther

## LOCAL BENEVOLENCES

The Holland Mission was our recipient in December. It is a shelter that seeks to meet the needs of homeless men, women, and children in the West Michigan area. They offer a wide range of Christ-driven services that address the root issues of homelessness.

## 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.



Worship for at home folks

### Worship Anew

11:30 A.M. on local cable channel 54 or Xfinity  
channel 21

Or

[www.cosholland.com](http://www.cosholland.com)

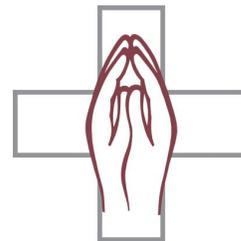
by going to the "Sermons & Media" section

Lutheran Hour radio – Sunday morning broadcast

## THE CONFESSIONS CORNER—Pastor Johnson

### Summing things up...

To be a Lutheran is to be one who honors the Word of God. That Word makes it clear that it is God's desire for His Church to be in agreement about doctrine and to be of one mind, living at peace with one another (1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11). It is for that reason that we so treasure the precious confession of Christian truth that we have in the Book of Concord. For confessional Lutherans, there is no other collection of documents, statements, or books that so clearly, accurately, and comfortingly presents the truths of God's Word and reveals the biblical Gospel as does our Book of Concord. Hand in hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession of the faith is, and always must be, an equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God's truth to the world. That is what confession of the faith is all about, in the final analysis. Indeed, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak" (2 Corinthians 4:13). This is what it means to be, and to remain, a genuine confessional Lutheran.



In Christ and His Service,

Pastor Johnson



The 39th Biennial Convention will be held at Rupp Arena, Lexington, KY Thursday, June 24 - June 27, 2021. This year's theme is Running the Race...Looking to Jesus based on Heb 12:1-2.

Hotel reservations will open up January 5 and the information on what hotels are available is in the winter Quarterly.

National Missions Goal for the biennium is \$2,100,000 and the amount received through November is \$1,754,544.77. Some of the missions that have been paid to date are:

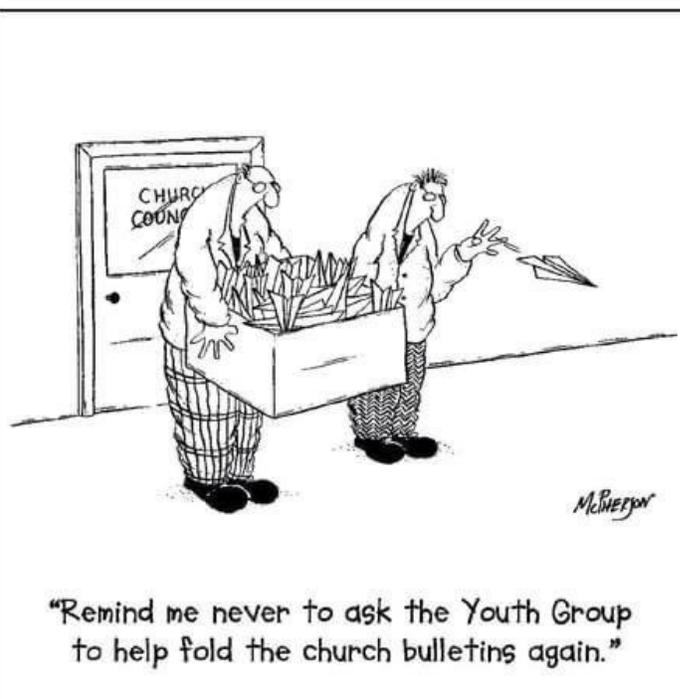
Water & Word for rural schools—Kenya	\$80k
Teach Me too-Preschoolers w/learning	\$100k
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$95k
Camp Restore - Detroit	\$100k

(Just to name a few)

There are 21 missions total that will receive money from our Mites. GOD IS AMAZING!



Our COS book club will be taking a few months off and hope to start back up in the Spring. We've read some really good books this past year. If you are interested in joining, contact Jean Vizithum .





**I**t's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);

Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);

Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);

Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and

With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

## 2020 Church Personnel and Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Russell Johnson  
 Cell Phone: (586)342-1384  
 Email: [givenforyou@gmail.com](mailto:givenforyou@gmail.com)  
 Admin. Assistant, Ann Campbell  
 Cell Phone: (269)903-5708  
 Email work: [coshlld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coshlld@sbcglobal.net)  
 Email home: [bacampbell99@hotmail.com](mailto: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, 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
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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



JANUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

3 - Pat Desire  
 13 - Marilyn Manders  
 13 - Andrew Johnson  
 20 - Harrison Nokielski  
 24- Natalie Brophy  
 24 - Karen Nunheimer  
 24 - Cliff St. John  
 28 - Zlata Brinker  
 31 - Richard Saar

*Dear God, we bring our loved ones before you on their birthday and pray your blessings and guidance over their lives. Thank you for leading them and guiding them in life. Help them to know how loved and cherished they are. Bless and protect them in the year ahead. May they know your peace and strength when they wake and your comfort and rest when they lay down to sleep. In Jesus name we pray.*

*Amen*



	<u>READERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>	<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>
Jan 3	Rob	Karen	Esther	Shari/Jane	Jean/Patty
Jan 10	Jean	Klugs	Esther	Jean/Rob	Ann/Lila
Jan 17	Jenni	Jean	Esther	Sue J/Bonnie	Helen
Jan 24	Rob	Shari	Esther	Jean/Rob	Christie
Jan 31	Shari	Hamiltons	Esther	Sue J/Bonnie	Klugs

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 9:30 Men's Bible Study
3 9:15 Communion Sunday School & Bible Study	4	5 7 Stephen's	6 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	7 11:30 am WSCOS	8	9 9:30 Men's Bible Study
10 9:15 Worship Sunday School or Bible Study	11	12 12-5:45 Red Cross 6:30 LWML	13 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	14 11:30 am WSCOS	15	16 9:30 Men's Bible Study
17 9:15 Communion Sunday School & Bible Study	18	19 6:30 Elders 7 Council	20 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	21 11:30 am WSCOS	22	23 9:30 Men's Bible Study
24 9:15 Worship Sunday School or Bible Study	25	26	27 11 Bible Study 12 pm Prayer	28 11:30 am WSCOS	29	30
31 9:15 Communion Sunday School & Bible Study						

**CHRIST OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3151 North 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Holland, MI 49424

Phone 616-738-0100  
Website: [www.cosholland.com](http://www.cosholland.com)

Rev. Russell Johnson  
Cell: (586)342-1384  
Email: [givenforyou@gmail.com](mailto: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"