



Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Pastor: Rev. Jeremiah Johnson, 816-716-2453 (cell)
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Pastor's Letter

A French writer coined the phrase, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” In many ways, my life in transition has reflected this reality. A new state. A new city. A new church. A new group of God’s people. A new home. (*Possibly a new snow blower!*) Yes, things are changing. But the more they change, the more they stay the same.

The familiar fellowship found within the body of Christ is a true gift and blessing from God. Much is changing for my family and I, but what a joy and comfort the earthly communion of saints brings with it. The Church, the gospel she bears and the risen Christ’s presence in the Divine Service has remained exactly the same. Even as we transition from the land of corn to the land of 10,000 lakes, the risen Christ is still coming into the midst of His people to teach them in the Service of the Word and feed them in the Service of the Sacrament.

Your welcome has been warm, your giving generous and your smiles sincere. I give thanks for those good gifts. Yet, even with those rich realities in full view, there is still a greater God given good for us to rejoice in together. It is best described by Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” The Holy Spirit led the early church to draw her life from the gifts of the risen Christ. The word “devoted” means that Christians were into these gifts with all of their strength (steadfastly). The proclamation of the apostles’ doctrine and the Lord’s Supper (breaking of bread) were the gifts at the heart of the Church’s fellowship. Their fellowship in the receiving of Word and Sacrament was formed by “the prayers”- *plural*. In other words, there was a liturgy, an ordered way of worship, when Christ came into their midst to serve them in word, water, wafer and wine.

So much has changed since the time St. Luke wrote those words right after Peter’s sermon in the book of Acts. But from Pentecost to Plymouth, the truth of those words remain exactly the same. For the Christ of history is also the Christ of this hour. He still lives! He still comes not to be served, but to serve. And despite the changes of people, place and period of time, Christ is still present with His gifts to feed and nourish the body of His church. That’s why the center of the Church’s life is worship! That’s also why worship among us is called the Divine Service (Gottesdienst). In worship, God is present to serve us with His life-giving and life-sustaining gifts of forgiveness. The beating heart of worship is God serving us with forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. This is the center of life.

It is those precious truths that transcend temporal time and transitions. "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Yes, things for me and my family are changing, but with you we cling to the unchangeable truth of God's word and promises. We are truly blessed to be in your midst. We pray for many years of service alongside you here in the body of Christ at Glory of Christ. God grant that together we might hear His word, receive His gifts and proclaim the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light!



In the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus,
Pastor Krueger



Worship this Month

Easter 3

April 10 – Acts 9:1-22

A Confiscated Life

Paul's life was going along just fine. He had a fine pedigree and a first-class education. He was a prominent and well-respected Pharisee. And he was zealously defending Judaism from a rogue movement called "the way" that worshipped its dead leader and claimed that he was the Son of God. Yes, Paul's legally-perfect life was working out well, until Jesus confiscated him.

The story of Paul (a.k.a. "Saul") is a well-known one. He was on his way to Damascus to go and arrest more Christians. But on the way, Jesus stopped him dead in his tracks. Blind and helpless, he was led to Damascus, and reborn at the font. From that point on, Paul's life was sent on a radically new trajectory. Now Jesus was calling the shots, and He had work for Paul to do. He would send Paul throughout the Roman empire, preaching and teaching, often at great personal risk. This was not *Paul's* life anymore. He had been confiscated. Now his life belonged to Jesus, and everything else he counted as loss compared to being found in Him.

Of course, this is the story of every believer. When Christ calls us to faith, when he marks us with His name in baptism, He confiscates us. We are not our own; we were bought with a price. (1 Cor 6:19-20) So whatever false idols we might have prioritized in our lives have all been left on the road. Christ is risen and he has graciously confiscated us to work in His Kingdom to the glory of His name.

Easter 4

April 17 – John 10:22-30

“O Little Flock”

Our three readings today are very different: the first is a farewell speech from Paul to the Ephesian elders, the second is a vision of how Christ is worshiped in heaven, and the third is a conversation between Jesus and the Jews about his identity. Yet all three of these passages address the people of God as the flock and the Lord as their shepherd. Paul the Ephesian pastors that after he leaves, “fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. In contrast, John provides a vision of how Christ will shepherd us in heaven. Then Jesus warns us that those who do not believe Him are not part of his flock. But those who do believe Him cannot be snatched out of His or the Father's hand.

In keeping with all the talk of sheep and shepherds in our readings, several of our hymns reflect this theme. Our closing hymn, “The Lord's My Shepherd” is based on Psalm 23. “O Little Flock, Fear not the Foe” is based partly on Luke 12:32, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” And that very kingdom is gloriously displayed in Revelation 7, where all His flock is gathered around the throne. And those who are gathered around the altar today are a foretaste of that feast to come.

Easter 5

April 24 – John 16:12-22

“Life's Little Whiles”

Seven times in our Gospel reading the phrase – “*a little while*” is used. *A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me. So some of His disciples...were saying, “What does he mean by a little while? We do not know what He is talking about.”* Jesus responded, *Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.*

The “*little while*” Jesus stated in our text has both an immediate meaning and an extended meaning. He spoke these words on Maundy Thursday. Soon there would be a little while in the gethsemane garden, a little while on trial and a little while brutally suspended on the tree of the cross. It was just a “*little while*” before no one would see Him as He was sealed into a tomb. And then in the “*little while*” of three days they did see Him again – risen from death! He spoke peace to them – absolving their sinful failures and doubts – Their sorrow was turned to joy by the first-born from the dead!

Amid all the “*little while*” of this passing world – Jesus promises an “*eternal while*” in which the source of our joy is joined to us. “*Behold the dwelling place of God is with man...He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away.*” (Rev. 21:3-4) It all flows from what is so beautifully expressed in the immediate meaning of a “*little while*” in our text – the very death and resurrection of Christ. Jesus will go to the Father because the purpose for which He dwelt among our sinful race for a little while is completed. It is done and finished!



Compassion Circle

Louise Werts
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Compassion Circle had their meeting on Monday April 4th and they donated Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste and Dental Floss for the Trinity First Lutheran's Church and School's Health Fair. They also donated 3 Gift Baskets for their Health Fair Silent Auction!

The next Compassion Circle Meeting will be the Annual End of the Year Luncheon. It will be on Monday, May 2nd, 1:00 PM at Robert's Restaurant at the Medina Ball Room. See you there!

Quilters will meet one more time this month of April on Tuesday the 19th at 9:00 am.



Missions



Say "Aloha" to Missionsfest 2016! Mark May 7th on your calendars; Festivities begin at 3 PM. Registration and Donation forms and envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. You can [register](#) and submit information about your [donation](#) online!

You may also visit www.gloryofchrist.org for more information about this fun event!



Youth

Julie Anderson
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Jr High & Sr High Youth Group Spring Events:

Page Revised 3-16-2016

Thank you for your patience as we have been working around a fluid schedule; trying to plan Youth Group Events!

Here is a list of where we stand today – and we will need your help and replies to continue planning:



Sunday, March 20:

Lunch at GOC right after Bible Study. Then we go visit with some of our homebound members.

*** Parent drivers will be needed.***



2 April: Dates we are considering, but need your input to schedule:

Make your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice ; then reply to me



April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th

May 7th:



Babysit for Mission Fest 3pm – 7pm (timing to be fine tuned and verified)

More in May?: Looking for open dates right now – much to be decided as Pastor Krueger is moving here. Feel free to let me know what dates work for you. Sundays are first choice, Saturdays are second choice.



Would like to try to plan Paintball !

— Julie Anderson

You can reach me at: julesanders@live.com

612-791-0163

WELCOME PASTOR KRUEGER & FAMILY!



Meal Assistance for the Krueger's! Pastor Krueger and Kim should be able to close on their home in the next week or so and Susan Johnson has arranged, through Meal Train, for our congregation to help them out with meals during this busy Time.

Please use the following link to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/0z3q44>. For any questions, please ask Susan Johnson. Thank You!



General News & Updates

Monthly Game Night! Join us in the fellowship hall every 2nd Friday of the month for cards, board games, and fun. The first two nights have been so much fun! The next one is scheduled for **THIS** Friday, April 8th. Whether you have a favorite game you never leave the house without, want to learn a new game, or don't own any games at all, come on out! The night starts at 6:30. Cards and game lovers of all ages are welcome.

Monday Evening Services have begun this Month of April at 7:00 PM.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30 pm

Mom's Group will meet in the month of April on the following dates:

Tuesday April 12th – 10:00 am, Wednesday April 20th – 4:00 pm and Tuesday April 28th – 10:00 am

Men's Reading Group will meet on Saturday, April 9th at 6:30 am at the Maple Grove Perkins.

Members of GoC are cordially invited to attend the Installation of Pastor Vance Milbrath; Sunday, April 17th at 3:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 6810 Winnetka Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN.

Thank You so much for all of your prayers and get well wishes and cards for a speedy recovery. It was greatly appreciated! Gayle McGriff.

New Member Sunday! Please join us on April 24th to welcome our New Members during the Divine Service!



2016 Glory of Christ Men's Retreat

The men's retreat has been set for September 16th-18th. It will be at the same location on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes in Crosslake, MN. The retreat last year was a big success and we are continuing the tradition. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Narthex. When you sign up, please indicate the day and time you plan to arrive. If you have any questions about the event please ask one of the Elders. If you attended last year, recruit others who missed out on this great fellowship event!

Glory of Christ Lutheran Church presents
the 2016 liturgy workshop:

THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

the liturgy of the Lord's Supper

Rev. William Weedon
Chaplain of the LCMS International Center

\$25 per person
Students are free of charge

Register at www.gloryofchrist.org or contact
the church office.

Includes lunch and refreshments

GLORY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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APRIL 30, 2016
9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.



VBS

Dawn Rolf
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You might say VBS is getting an upgrade this year. You might even go as far as to call it *New and Improved*. Regardless of how you refer to it, there are a few notable changes coming to VBS June 13-17.

First: Rather than using a pre organized VBS from Concordia Publishing as we have in the past, we have chosen to **write our own VBS**. What does this mean for GOC? It will require a little more work on the front end, but in the long run, we are in a better position to put out a quality program that is unique to Glory of Christ, solid in Biblical teaching, and progresses chronologically through the Bible, while tying Old Testament prophecies of Christ to the New Testament life and work of Christ. This year's theme is ***Maker of Heaven and Earth***. We will walk through the 6 days of creation and continue on through the fall of man and show our need for a Savior in Jesus. The children will learn by watching creation unfold before their eyes.

Also this year we are moving the **date of our closing program**. Rather than asking everyone to come back Sunday morning for our closing program and picnic, we will have it at the end of our program on Friday. The program will be at 11:30 with a picnic and fun to follow. Please plan to join us! We want the families of the VBS children to be introduced to our congregation, and we want you to know what the VBS children learned throughout the week.

What do we need from you? Please consider joining us during the week of VBS. We cannot serve the children of our community without volunteers. If you are able to come for the whole week or just for a day please let me know.

Volunteers needed:

Someone with computer video editing skills
Person/people with set design/theater experience
Group leaders and helpers
Actor in story time or props helpers in story time to help creation "unfold"
Craft leader
Recreation helper
Childcare (for children of members who are helping at VBS)
Closing picnic coordinator and workers

We are looking to **borrow the following items:**

- Christmas light projector "Star Shower" or other
- Large plush snake

Lastly, don't forget to register! Go to www.gloryofchrist.org to sign up. We are welcoming children ages 3 (potty trained) – going into 5th grade. It's a fun filled day from 9 to Noon. Invite your friends and neighbors!



President's Letter

David Teske
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Dear Members of Glory of Christ,

Thank you to all of you who stayed after Bible study this past Sunday to hear a bit more about the capital campaign, be introduced to the members of the committee and to approve the funding necessary to implement the capital campaign. This vote was a necessary stepping stone in our path forward for the building program.

For those of you who were at the voters meeting, I know we skipped through the PowerPoint slides rather quickly so I am seizing this opportunity to recap some of the important points. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, my hope is this brief recap will get you up-to-speed. If not, do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any of the Capital Campaign Committee members, so we can answer any questions you may have. Below, please find a summary of the meeting and Capital Campaign topics

- Capital Campaign Committee has determined that management of the capital campaign will be done in-house; the Committee met with Capital Funding Services (an affiliate of LCEF) to evaluate their services and determined we could save money and conduct the capital campaign the "Glory of Christ way" if done in-house.
- Congregation approved investing up to \$30,000 to be used in the implementation of the Capital Campaign.
- Source of funds: \$30,000 will come from the ~\$500,000 large gift.
- Church Council will approve all Campaign expenditures; Campaign Committee will not be allowed to enter into any contractual agreements – this must be done by Council.
- Capital Campaign Committee members are Bob Strom – Chairman, Dennis Karius – Campaign Coordinator, Lori Beck – Logistics Coordinator, Mike Lindh – Recording Secretary, Mark Swenson – Advance Giving, Bruce Paradis – Advance Giving.
- Church Council and the Campaign Committee will work with Jesse Huber to produce pro forma financial statements and design a long-term financing plan with LCEF assistance.
- Campaign will be in a quiet period for a few weeks while it is being developed with a kick-off anticipated for September 2016.

In summary, a lot of activities are currently going on with regard to the capital campaign and, ultimately, the building program. In time, much more information will be coming out concerning these topics but, at present, we are in the planning and development phase. However, please know that a successful capital campaign and building program will need active participation from as many Glory of Christ members as possible so, with that in mind, we will be looking for ways to provide opportunities for as many people to volunteer as possible and in any capacity.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

In Christ,
David Teske
Council President



Treasurer's Report

Jesse Huber
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Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 3 rd	Bruce & Jill Larson Madison Milbrath	Anniversary Birthday
April 4 th	Mari Houck	Birthday
April 5 th	Ruth Decker Nora Bell	Birthday Birthday
April 8 th	Garry McCreary	Birthday
April 10 th	Alexis Qualle	Birthday
April 11 th	Kiley Lavanger Nora Madson	Birthday Birthday
April 12 th	Arlys Edson	Birthday
April 14 th	Jonathan Schultz	Birthday
April 17 th	Jennifer Schaumburg	Birthday
April 21 st	Janet Preus	Birthday
April 22 nd	Tom & Brenda Richards Bruce Larson Austin Corey	Anniversary Birthday Birthday
April 23 rd	Henry Rolf	Birthday
April 25 th	Lydia DeBlois	Birthday
April 27 th	Jim Small	Birthday
April 28 th	Andy & Elizabeth Madson Paul Koosman	Anniversary Birthday
April 29 th	Gayle McGriff	Birthday
April 30 th	Jerry & Lou Ann Jespersen	Anniversary



Calendar

~ April 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10a-11a Lavanger Visitation 11a-12p Lavanger Funeral	2
3 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30a-12:30p Special voters' meeting	4 1p-2p Compassion Circle Meeting (Story of Christ Lutheran Church, County Road 1011, Plymouth, MN) 7p-8p Divine Service	5 9a-2p Quilting 7p-8p Elders	6 4p-5:30p Moms' group 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	7	8 5:30p-6:30p Heeren/Bergan Wedding Rehearsal 6:30p-8:30p Game Night	9 6:30a-7:30a Men's Reading Group 4p-5p Andrea Heeren/Jud Bergan Wedding
10 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	11 7p-8p Divine Service	12 10a-11:30a Moms' group 6:30p-7:30p Council	13 10a-11a Bible Study 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	14	15 5:30p-6:30p Steig/Hautamaki Rehearsal	16 11a-12p Steig/Hautamaki Wedding
17 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	18 7p-8p Divine Service	19 9a-2p Quilting 7p-8p CCC	20 10a-11a Bible Study 4p-5:30p Moms' group 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 New Member Sunday 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	25 7p-8p Divine Service	26 10a-11:30a Moms' group	27 10a-11a Bible Study 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 4:30p-5:30p SS Teachers' Meeting 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 8a-3p Liturgy Workshop