



Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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www.gloryofchrist.org

Pastor: Rev. Jeremiah Johnson

Assistant Pastor for Missions: Rev. John Fehrmann

Visitation Pastor: Rev. Dean Weibel

Pastor's Letter

Rev. Jeremiah Johnson
816-716-2453 (cell)

You are Here

If you've ever been to the mall, you've undoubtedly stopped at one of those brightly-lit maps covered in Plexiglas that tells you where all the stores are. Of course, a map doesn't do you a whole lot of good unless you know where you are to begin with. So every one of these maps has a star somewhere on it, and next to that star are the words, "you are here."

There's a lot going on at Glory of Christ right now. The church calendar for the next few months looks almost as busy as one of those mall maps. So lest we get lost in the shuffle, let me sketch out the landscape and plunk down a star that says "you are here."

Call Process

On January 10th, Glory of Christ voted to call Rev. Kyle Krueger from Fort Wayne, Indiana. After a flurry of scheduling and last-minute child care, Pastor Krueger and his wife, Kim, visited us for four days. Many of you had a chance to meet them at our various get-togethers and, of course, at Divine Service on Saturday and Sunday. He is currently deliberating this call and has promised to have a decision by February 6th.

What will a second full-time pastor do? The elders have spoken to this question on several occasions, but it never hurts to review. Right now, Glory of Christ's immediate needs are being cared for. The Divine Service is being celebrated, Bible Studies are being taught, the sick are being visited, confession is being heard, confirmands are being confirmed (pretty sure I just invented that word), couples are being prepared for marriage, and a whole host of other things go on each day. But another full-time pastor will open up *many* new opportunities both inside and outside our doors. Another pastor will enable both of us to make more home visits, teach more Bible Studies, and devote more time to the care of young and old alike. Furthermore, the Plymouth area is bursting with outreach opportunities. Just on my way home, I pass by three new housing developments, all part of the growing mission field around our church. We are also looking into the possibility of partnering with Concordia, St. Paul to provide the church work students (or anyone else who wants to play along) to participate in the Glory of Christ community. Add to these a million more possibilities for the Gospel to go out our doors and to soak into our own soil. An additional pastor at Glory of Christ will be a tremendous blessing to us and all of Christ's church.

Building Program

At our annual voter's meeting back in December, the assembly *unanimously* agreed to press forward with our building program and authorized the formation of a capital campaign committee. After the flurry of activity and meetings in the fall, it may seem that the program has gone into hibernation. Not so! We have, however, entered a “quieter” stage of the process that will call for a bit of patience. Before we can go any further with our architectural firm, they need to see that we're working towards funding the project. Enter the capital campaign committee. They have already met and are responsible for crunching the numbers for this whole program and putting together a capital campaign, which looks likely for this fall. (But don't put it on your calendar quite yet!)

While we're on the subject, sometimes talking about money in the church can be a touchy issue, and I can understand why. With all the prosperity-preachers and guilt-driven giving, it's easy to see how the message can go wrong about a million different ways. But I promise you that we won't do that.

When it comes to money, it's really pretty simple. We pray for daily bread; the Lord promises to give it. And He typically uses *us* as the way of bringing daily bread to each other. He uses the teacher to give the daily bread of education to the student. He uses the farmer to give the daily bread of, well, *bread* to the consumer. He uses doctors to give the daily bread of healing to the patient. And he uses pastors to give the daily bread of His Word to the Christian. And at some level or another, there's usually money involved in this whole process of bread-giving, because money is just liquid you. For example, a twenty might represent reconciling an account or cutting someone's hair or engineering a sewer drain. That twenty represents some slice of your time and skill.

So here's what we all want to remember when we're talking about money: if money is liquid me, then money is one of the ways I can give *me* to my neighbor. That's how we can love our neighbor with our money. A beautiful illustration of this was the gift that Glory of Christ sent to the Philippines after the typhoon went through. I don't think anybody gave to the Philippines just to see the red thermometer rise to the top. We wanted our brothers and sisters there to be able to worship our Lord in a church again. And since we couldn't all go over there and build a church for them, we sent a much more portable version of ourselves—money. And we did it out of *love*.

And that's the whole point of this building program. We don't just want more space. We want a space for our brothers and sisters to hear the word of God, to make them food, to grieve their losses, to raise their children. Of course it takes money. But that's one of the ways that we love our neighbor here.

Mexico Mission

Things are progressing in Mexico. In Tyler McMiller's last newsletter; we saw pictures of the first youth group gathering at El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd), where Tyler is serving. Pastor Daniel Conrad is leading theological education workshops for the pastors there in the Lutheran Synod of Mexico as well as teaching and preaching at El Buen Pastor. We do well to remember that our work down there is a marathon, not a sprint. Tyler and Pr. Conrad are in it for the long haul.

As I have urged before, this sort of work requires patience. Although we would be thrilled if hundreds of people each day came to the church and were brought into the fold, we should also remember that all of heaven rejoices over just one sinner who repents. We hope that this year we will have opportunity to travel down to Mexico City and see things first hand. As the mission unfolds, we will find out just how Glory of Christ might fit into the Lord's larger work in Mexico. Stay tuned!

Workshops, Missionfest, VBS, and more

After re-starting the liturgy workshops last year, we will be hosting one again this year. On Saturday, April 30th, Rev. William Weedon, the chaplain for LCMS headquarters will be presenting on the Lord's Supper. Pastor Weedon is a fantastic speaker and a frequent guest on Issues, Etc. and KFUEO.

Missionfest is scheduled for the very next week, Saturday, May 7th. We don't have many details yet, but the committee is working very hard to make it just as successful as last year's.

VBS is scheduled for June 13-17th. This year, we're writing our own, and the theme will be on creation, titled "Maker of Heaven and Earth." (probably)

There will also likely be a three-day theological workshop this summer led by one of our seminary professors. The details are still being worked out, but I'll pass along the news as soon as it comes.

Needless to say, we have a lot going on, so hopefully this gives you a good picture of where we're at right now. But for all the different directions that we're going, there's one sense in which our little "you are here" star hasn't moved at all. Where are we? We are still at the Church, built on the foundation of Christ. This is where the Lord placed us in our baptism, and we haven't moved since. No matter where the years ahead take us, our star will still be placed firmly in Christ, and the Word will assure us, "you are here."

Pastor Johnson



Worship this Month

Transfiguration of our Lord
February 7, 2016 – Luke 9:28-36

Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets. In Jesus one greater than Moses and Elijah has come and all the law and the prophets speak of Him (Lk. 24:47). The Transfiguration is the confirmation of the arrival of the Messianic kingdom on earth. It is where heaven and earth meet. It is a glimpse beyond the veil into the glorious kingdom of Christ. But suffering must precede glory. Moses and Elijah speak of Christ's exodus. By this they refer to what must be fulfilled in Jerusalem, the brutal agony of the cross.



Compassion Circle

Louise Werts
Louise6522@aol.com

Compassion Circle is collecting for Orphan Grain Train: There is a donation tub in the Narthex for you to place donations such as toothbrushes, stick deodorants, band aids and soap for Orphan Grain Train. These items will be collected throughout the month of February.

Quilters: The GoC quilters will be meeting this month on February 9th and 23rd. Please plan to come by 9:00 am and stay until approximately 3:00 pm. Plan to bring your own lunch. Thank You!



Youth

Julie Anderson
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Bread of Life – 2016 Higher Things Conference

Thank you to those students who have signed up for the 2016 Higher Things Conference. Everyone is registered and we did it by the Early Bird Deadline! More information will be coming, but the dates for this year's conference is July 5th through the 8th in Cedar Falls, Iowa.



General News & Updates

Next Council Meeting: The Council will meet on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Next Elders Meeting: The Elders will meet on Tuesday February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Next Mom's Group Meeting: Mom's group will meet again beginning Tuesday February 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Last Sunday for Poinsettias: If you would like to take a poinsettia home with you, please do so by Sunday, February 7th as this will be the last Sunday we will have them here at church. Thank You!

Save the Date for Missions Fest!!! Missions Fest has been scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. More details to come but place this fun and important date on your calendar!

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 Friday, February 12th. 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.



Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services: Ash Wednesday is February 10th and we will have two services that day at 11:30 am and at 7:00 pm. Weekly Lenten services will follow every Wednesday at 11:30 am, with a soup lunch following and then, an evening Lenten Service at 7:00 pm through March 16th. Dinner will be provided by various groups from our congregation each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be on March 24th and 25th at 7:00 pm, with two Easter Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am on Sunday, March 27th. Elders will once again serve a wonderful Easter breakfast between the services that morning. Please plan to join us!

Groups Serving Dinner during the Lenten Season:

February 10th (Ash Wednesday) – Elders – Tacos

February 17th - Young Adults – Homemade Soups

February 24th – Bells/Choir – Lasagna, salad and bread

March 2nd – Church Council – BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

March 9th – Sunday School Teachers & Families – Baked Potatoes/Fixins

March 16th - Altar Guild – Hot dishes, Salads



Music

Organists: Carla Claussen,
Zelda Malo, Maddie Marshall
and Sarah Miller
Adult Choir Director: Carla Claussen

Bell Choir Director: Brenda Richards
Music Coordinator: Zelda Malo
Children's Choir: Andrea Heeren
Chimes Director: Ellie Leimer

Change in Rehearsal Times: During the Lenten Season, Bell Choir will rehearse from 6:15 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. and the Adult Choir will begin their rehearsal immediately following the Evening Lenten Service – approximately 7:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Did you notice?

Some people have noticed the “no peanuts/no tree nuts” signs and requests around church, here’s some information on what that’s about:

Why the ban on nuts?

There are members of the church, both children and adults, who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. In order to keep them safe and be able to actively participate in services, Bible studies, Sunday school, etc. these measures are necessary.

Why not other allergens

Children and adults with allergies to tree nuts and/or peanuts can have an allergic reaction through physical, airborne and/or ingestive contact. A reaction can occur by touching a nut (contact), having the allergen enter through inhalation (airborne) and/or by eating a food item that contains nut, even trace amounts (ingestion). Nut reactions have the highest risk of fatality. Nut residue is easily transferred to other areas, too.

What if I eat peanut butter every morning before church?

No problem! Just please remember to wash your hands and face with soap and water before coming to church!

Oops... I forgot and brought a peanut butter item to church, now what?

Please do not open it and just take it back to your car to enjoy later at home.

Every label at the bakery says processed in a facility with nuts/peanuts or may contain nuts/peanuts. Can I bring that to pot luck?

Yes. Only items that actually contain nuts should be left at home. To be clear, allergic children and adults cannot actually eat items with the “manufactured in a facility” with nuts or “processed on shared equipment” with nuts labels, but these foods can safely be consumed by other people nearby.

Thank you for your help!

Empathy and compassion are the key elements for keeping people away from this potentially life-threatening allergy. While some allergies can be a nuisance with low level reactions (i.e. stuffed-up noses and sneezing) people who suffer from peanut allergies can have very dangerous, even life-threatening anaphylactic reactions. By not bringing nut products to church, we are helping protect these people with nut allergies. It is a blessing to be able to help out in this way. Thank you all for your participation.



President's Letter

David Teske
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Dear Members of Glory of Christ,

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas and wish for you all of God's blessings in the year to come. I can't believe we are already in 2016 but am looking forward to serving as the Council President this year as we have so many exciting things happening in our congregation.

To begin with, thank you to all the members who participated in the voter's assembly on January 10th where we voted to extend a call for the Assistant Pastor position to Pastor Kyle Krueger. As many of you know, Pastor Krueger and his wife Kimberly visited Glory of Christ this past weekend and spent a lot of time exploring the area to look at housing and schools in addition to spending time getting to know Pastor Johnson and the members of our congregation. I hope you each got a chance to meet them as they seem to be very engaging and friendly – much as we are here at Glory of Christ. Please keep Pastor Krueger and his family in your prayers as they work through their decision process.

If calling an additional Pastor isn't exciting enough, in December the voter's assembly voted unanimously to proceed with plans to pursue remodeling and expansion of our facilities. It's very unusual to achieve unanimity for such a vote and speaks to all of the hard work and preparation that the Insight Committee (now known as the Building Committee), Elders and Church Council put into this effort along with Station 19, the architectural firm.

It's fun to look at the renderings of what our Church could look like in the future and imagine how the facility could better serve our congregation and our neighbors. From my perspective, it's inspirational to have a vision of the future where our building can better support teaching of the Word and administering of the Sacraments for our current and future members. To that end, the Capital Campaign Committee had its first meeting on January 25th and invited Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to give the committee an overview of the services and support they offer for designing and operating a capital campaign. The Capital Campaign Committee will be meeting again in the very near future to further discuss LCEF's proposal in addition to reviewing the plethora of materials Pastor Johnson and Bob Strom acquired during their visit to a congregation in Wheaton, IL to learn how they have operated their many capital campaigns. As such, look for further updates from this committee in the coming weeks.

In closing, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be Council President for 2016. I look forward to all of the exciting things happening at Glory of Christ and eagerly anticipate working with the truly exceptional people we have in our membership.

In Christ,

David Teske
Council President



Treasurer's Report

Jesse Huber
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Glory of Christ Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2015

	<u>12/31/2015</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking	129,683.18
Deferred Annuity Proceeds	41,715.71
LCEF Stewardship Account	414,701.37
Savings	1,122.08
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 587,222.34
Accounts Receivable	36,254.19
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 36,254.19
Other current assets	
Due from CLEF	1,060.09
Total Other current assets	\$ 1,060.09
Total Current Assets	\$ 624,536.62
Fixed Assets	
Church Building	1,478,541.22
Equipment	72,184.54
Land	70,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 1,620,725.76
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,245,262.38
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	41,254.19
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 41,254.19
Other Current Liabilities	
Designated Fund Balances	
Building Addition Fund	500.00
Capital Improvement Fund	78,746.83
Mortgage Loan Repayment	159,608.28
Roof Loan Repayment	73,913.97
Youth	9,045.82
Total Designated Fund Balances	\$ 321,814.90
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 363,069.09
Total Liabilities	\$ 363,069.09
Equity	
Building Fund Balance	1,300,913.52
Opening Bal Equity	515,131.40
Retained Earnings	15,388.71
Net Income	50,759.66
Total Equity	\$ 1,882,193.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 2,245,262.38



Serving this Month

Serving Sunday February 7, 2016

Coffee:	Jon Burns & Brenda Richards
Acolyte:	Maddie Nelson
Processional:	Austin Corey
Elders:	Roger Hargreaves & Andy Madson
Ushers:	Jim Fahnhorst & Chris Houck
Altar Guild:	Barb Rains & Brenda Richards
Offering Counters:	Bob & Arlene Strom
Bread Baker:	Cheryl McCreary
Bread Deliverer:	Carl Hartness

Serving Wednesday February 10, 2016 (Ash Wednesday)

Acolyte:	Jack Teske
Elders:	Andy Madson & Mark Swenson
Ushers:	Paul Koosman & Jeremy Eickhoff
Altar Guild:	Brenda Richards

Serving Sunday February 14, 2016

Coffee:	Steve & Barb Rains
Acolyte:	Bryce Wikman
Elders:	Andy Madson & Mark Swenson
Ushers:	Russ McBroom & Chuck McGriff
Altar Guild:	Brenda Richards
Offering Counters:	Kent Rudeen & Janelle Franzmeier
Bread Baker:	Kelly Dorweiler
Bread Deliverer:	Lori Beck

Serving Wednesday February 17, 2016

Acolyte:	Bill Anderson
Ushers:	Patton Hoffarth & Jesse Huber

Serving Sunday February 21, 2016

Coffee:	Mark & Karen Swenson
Acolyte:	Bri Dorweiler
Elders:	Andy Madson & Mark Swenson
Ushers:	Paul Koosman & Bruce Larson
Altar Guild:	Karen Swenson & Pauline Hemingway
Offering Counters:	Chad & Denae Kuenzel
Bread Baker:	Charlotte Smith
Bread Deliverer:	Craig Smith

Serving Wednesday February 24, 2016

Acolyte:	Jack Teske
Ushers:	Mark Swenson & Jacob Olson

Serving Sunday February 28, 2016

Coffee:	Pauline Hemingway & Kaylene Steig
Acolyte:	Jack Teske
Elders:	Andy Madson & Mark Swenson
Ushers:	Todd Zitzlsperger & David Werts
Altar Guild:	Jan Diemand & Julie Anderson
Offering Counters:	Jeremy & Jill Eickhoff
Bread Baker:	Sandi Edenborg
Bread Deliverer:	Beth Schoolman



Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 3 rd	Lou Ann Jespersen	Birthday
February 6 th	Mike Krause	Birthday
February 9 th	Susan Johnson	Birthday
February 10 th	Alexander Schaumberg	Birthday
February 14 th	Lily Johnson	Birthday
February 15 th	Curt Woolfolk	Birthday
February 16 th	Morgan Johnson	Birthday
February 18 th	Billy Anderson	Birthday
February 19 th	Jan Diemand	Birthday
February 21 st	Lea Connealy	Birthday
February 23 rd	Chelsea Ofsthun	Birthday
February 24 th	LeRoy Reinke	Birthday
February 26 th	Janie Tesch-Cassady	Birthday
February 27 th	Darlene Yount	Birthday
February 28 th	Elizabeth Madson	Birthday
February 29 th	Betty Reinke (for real this year!!)	Birthday



Calendar

~ February 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1p-2p Compassion Circle Meeting (Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, County Road 101\, Plymouth, MN)	2	3 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p-7:30p Bells Rehearsal 7:30p-8:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 5p-6p Divine Service
7 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	8	9 9a-3p Quilters 6:30p-7:30p Council	10 10a-11a Bible Study 11:30a-12p Ash Wednesday Service 12p-1p Lenten Soup Lunch 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 4:30p-5:30p Sunday School teachers' meeting 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6p-7p Lenten Dinner 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7p-7:45p Ash Wednesday Service 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	11	12 6:30p-8:30p Game Night	13 5p-6p Divine Service
14 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	15	16 10a-11:30a Moms' group 7p-8p Elders	17 10a-11a Bible Study 11:30a-12p Ash Wednesday Service 11:30a-12p Mid-Morning Lenten Service 12p-1p Lenten Soup Lunch 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6p-7p Lenten Dinner 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7p-7:45p Ash Wednesday Service 7p-7:45p Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20 9a-4p Bethesda here 9:00 to 4:00 5p-6p Divine Service
21 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	22	23 9a-3p Quilters	24 10a-11a Bible Study 11:30a-12p Mid-Morning Lenten Service 12p-1p Lenten Soup Lunch 4p-5:30p Moms' group 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation 6p-7p Lenten Dinner 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7p-7:45p Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 5p-6p Divine Service