



GLORY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE, BAPTISM, COMMUNION, WORSHIP. **CHRIST.**

JULY 2016

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Newsletter

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Pastor's Letter

Rev. Jeremiah Johnson

A New Look

Notice something different?

The leadership here at Glory of Christ decided that it's time to update our logo, and I thought it would be helpful to say a few things by way of introduction. On the one hand, it's just a logo. It's not going to bring millions to Christ or solve world hunger. But on the other hand, a logo says something. It sums up who we are with a picture and just a few words. Think about the Nike swoosh or Mr. Peanut or the NBC peacock (did you know it was a peacock?); you'd recognize these brands anywhere. Although the church is *not* a corporate brand, advertising has certainly demonstrated how powerful and memorable a logo can be.

So when we decided to design a new logo, here's the question we asked ourselves: how do summarize who we are and what we're all about here? Pastor Krueger and I both immediately thought of Luke's description of the Church after Pentecost in Acts 2:42. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." We came up with plenty of other ideas, but we found that we had a hard time doing any better than Acts 2:42.

A word of explanation about this verse is in order. Acts 2:42 says "*They* were devoted..." Who's they? The early church, who was given a big boost at Pentecost. They were devoted to the apostles' teaching. And what was that teaching? The apostles were teaching that Christ is indeed the Messiah, foretold in the Old Testament, and that we have forgiveness and life in His name. Today, the teaching that was on the lips of the apostles is now on the pages of the Scriptures. They also were devoted to "fellowship", which doesn't mean coffee and donuts after the service. The ESV rightly punctuates this with a comma, indicating that "fellowship" equals "the breaking of bread." And the New Testament regularly refers to the Lord's Supper as "fellowship" (koinonia for all you Greek-speakers out there) and "the breaking of the bread." Finally, they were also devoted to "the prayers." Certainly that included the believers' private daily prayers, but it has been a tradition since the very first days of the church also to refer to worship as "the prayers." (That's why we call Matins, Vespers, Morning and Evening Prayer, "the prayer offices.") So the church was devoted to Scripture, Communion, and *the* Prayers. Flip back one verse, and you can see that this whole thing got rolling when 3000 people were baptized on Pentecost day. Put that together with Scripture, Communion, and worship, and you've got a pretty good picture about what the church is all about.

That's what the early church was devoted to, and that's what we're *still* devoted to: Scripture, Baptism, Communion, and worship. And of course, all of these things deliver *Christ*. *His* name, *His* words, *His* flesh, *His* blood, *His* presence: to cling to Scripture, Baptism, Communion and worship is to cling to Christ. That's why we have the icon of the shell, the Bible, the cup, and the church in the four quadrants of the cross. This is how Christ comes to us, this is what we're devoted to, and this is *who we are*.

Personally, I like how the new logo looks. But the real test of our new logo is if it clearly communicates that what goes on here at the font, at the lectern, and at the altar is what *Christ* is doing here among us. Logos come and go, but what Christ does among us never changes.

Pastor Johnson



Worship this Month

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 3 – Luke 10:1-20

*“Therefore **beg** the Lord of the harvest to **throw out** laborers into His harvest.”*

The Lord wants us to pray for workers, for pastors. The Lord wants you to pray for laborers, for shepherds. It is not to be a matter of smooth-talking recruitment but a matter of begging God to throw men out into His harvest to speak His word faithfully. It is not a matter of mobilizing talented and socially savvy men to sell a product but pushing out men to proclaim a kingdom that is *not of this world*. There will be risk for those God sends forth for Jesus describes them as sacrificial lambs among wolves. We are not to expect God to bring us His kingdom through something more spectacular or even subtle than His sent servants and the words they are given to speak.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 10 - Luke 10-25-37

“The Good Samaritan”

Lutheran ears recoil at the lawyer's question “Teacher, what *shall I do* to inherit eternal life?” We may have preferred if Jesus just would have said, “there's nothing you can do to inherit eternal life. only I can give it to you.” But Jesus doesn't respond that way. He lets the lawyer continue on with his self-justifying quest. He knows who God is, but who is his neighbor? So Jesus tells us the parable of the “good Samaritan” not only to answer this question but also to show us who *He* is.

In the parable, the Samaritan demonstrates what it looks like to love your neighbor as yourself. He picked the near-dead man off the road, put him on his *own* donkey, took care of his wounds, and at his own expense, made sure that this man was cared for until his return.

This is a certainly a model for how we should selflessly care for our neighbor. We should treat anyone in need, *anyone* as if they were a dearly loved family member and be willing to sacrifice our time, money, and effort for their sake. This is the kind of service Jesus calls us to.

But if we see the parable of the good Samaritan *only* as a morality lesson, we've missed the greater part of the parable. Yes, we are the Samaritan, and we care for the needs of our neighbor.

But Jesus is the good Samaritan all the more. Jesus came upon us when we were still dead in our trespasses and sins, bleeding and good as dead on the side of the road. With no cooperation from us, Jesus scooped us up, put us on His own donkey, and bound up our wounds. Like the Samaritan, he has provided for our ongoing care until His return. And He *will* return for us. Jesus is the one who not only loves the Lord (His Father) with all His heart, soul, and mind *and* loves us, His neighbor, as Himself.

Correction: *more* than Himself. After all, He gives His life for dead travelers like us.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 17 - Luke 10-38-42

“It is Better to Receive Than to Give.”

The Christian Church can easily be anxious and troubled about many things... You, as a Christian, maybe anxious and troubled about many things, including the future of Christianity in a world that is increasingly non-Christian and even anti-Christian. Jesus’ words are just as true today as they were on the day our incarnate Lord spoke them to Martha... ONE thing is necessary. ONE thing is needful. That ONE thing is sitting at the Lord’s feet and listening to His teaching. That is the good portion which will not be taken away. The very center of the Christian’s life is the Divine Service where we find ourselves before the throne of grace with Jesus teaching and feeding us in the service of the word and the service of the sacrament.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
July 24 – Genesis 18:17-33

“Abraham Negotiates over Sodom and Gomorrah”

Should everyone be punished for the sins of a few? That's essentially the question Abraham asks the Lord in the Old Testament reading for today. No one debated that Sodom and Gomorrah were brimming with evil and deserved whatever punishment the Lord wanted to give them. But what if there were a few innocent people among all the evil? Didn't God care about the collateral damage?

So Abraham finds himself in the peculiar position of negotiating with God. “What if there were fifty righteous people in the city, would you still destroy it?” Forty? Thirty? Twenty? Ten? If there were even ten righteous people in the city, the Lord would have mercy on all for the sake of the few.

Now we know that Sodom and Gomorrah are eventually destroyed although Lot and his family are spared. But more than anything, this episode between God and Abraham teaches us what it means when the Lord says that he “is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” The Lord is a God of mercy *and* wrath, but His mercy is infinitely greater than his anger.

Yet the Lord has mercy on us not for the sake of *ten* righteous people, but only one. And that one is the One who is righteous, Jesus Christ.



General News & Updates

Sunday Schedule: Divine Service 9:00 AM; followed by Bible Class and Sunday school at 10:30.

Monday Evening Divine Service: 7:00 PM

Northwest Suburban Circuit Congregation Prayers – Each week we will be praying for a congregation in the circuit and for others who have or have had a connection with them. This week, we are asking for prayers for Rev. Dean Nadasdy, our District President, and all of our elected officers and board members in the MN South District.

FORE! The Glory of Christ 9-hole golf event is coming back this summer! Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, August 13th beginning at 3:30 PM at Hollydale Golf Course with awards and dinner following. No pressure, just a lot of fun for golfers of all experience levels. More details to follow. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Questions? See Mike Miller or Naomi Teske.

LCMS National Day of Offering – The National Offering embodies our walk together in WITNESS, MERCY, and LIFE TOGETHER as we proclaim the Gospel and provide for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. Please see the pamphlets on the table in the Narthex to learn more and how to contribute.

Mom's Group Summer Park Playgroups will begin after VBS and are held every Tuesday at 10 am. Come bring your kids and enjoy some much needed outdoor time and social time! We usually eat snacks/lunch together, but please remember - **do not bring any food containing nuts to Mom's Group playgroups.** *Thanks for your help in keeping all of our playgroups safe for all. Questions? Ask Susan Johnson. Dates and locations are:*

July 5-Gleason Fields and Playground- 18815 67th Ave. N, Maple Grove
(Just off Cty Road 101 headed North towards Corcoran)
July 12- Corcoran City Park - 20200 County Road 50, Corcoran
July 19th- Baker Park Reserve Playground
July 26th- Greenwood Elementary Playground

Help needed with the Church Grounds/Gardening! Like to garden? Want to make a little extra spending money this summer? GoC is looking for people to assist with the gardens/plants around the church grounds this summer. Council has approved a stipend of \$12.00 an hour as payment for anyone who is willing to help out. Please let Brenda know if you have spent some time in the gardens, and a payment can be made. If you purchase flowers to be planted keep the receipts and you will be reimbursed. Thank You!

Adult Bible Class: Philemon

More than any of the letters that Paul wrote, his letter to Philemon is a good example of the kind and eloquent letters people wrote in the Greco-Roman world. It is the shortest and most personal of Paul's letters. Despite its brevity, it contains some of the deepest insights and theology on forgiveness, reconciliation, vocation, and Christ. Luther says, regarding the Book of Philemon, "*This epistle gives us a masterful and tender illustration of Christian love...*" (LW 29, Lectures on Philemon)

Instructional Class - Our Instruction Class has started! Whether you're new to Glory of Christ or you've been here for twenty years, you are welcome to join us. We'll be covering the Christian faith, A to Z and answering questions along the way. Class will be running during the Bible Study hour right after church in the Sanctuary. **NO Instructional Class on Sunday, July 3rd.**

Volunteers Needed! Would you like a new and unique way to serve the Lord? Come volunteer with us at **Bethesda Thrift Shop**. There is a new manager, Conan, and he is extending a personal invitation to check us out. Bethesda Thrift Shop 4749 County Road 101 Minnetonka, MN 55345. [952 939-0988](tel:9529390988).

Altar Flower Assistance – Janice Hartness usually picks up our Altar Flowers from Dundee Nursery every Saturday and brings them to church for the Sunday and Monday Divine Services. She will be out of town the weeks of July 16th, 23rd and 30th. If you are able to assist with this task, please let either Janice or Brenda know. Thank You!!



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!



Youth

Julie Anderson, 612-791-0163
julesanders@lve.com

We have some fun events for the Youth in July and August!

July 18th – 22nd - "Shadow the Pastor" : 6th–12th graders are invited to Shadow the Pastor for a day! Please contact Pastor Johnson or Pastor Krueger to schedule individually.

August 12th - 13th Church Lock-in

Printed sign up pages for both of these events will be at the church Narthex entrance.



Capital Campaign

Dear Glory of Christ Members:

The initial planning phase of the capital campaign to fund the building renovations at Glory of Christ is complete. We are now preparing for the campaign kickoff this fall. As part of our strategy to manage the campaign “in house” we are looking to build the teams necessary to put the campaign into action. The following teams are needed to assist the committee with communications, mailings and the kickoff event on September 11, 2016:

- **Mail team (3 - 4 people) - Prepare mailings, pledge packets and invitations for Campaign kickoff dinner by stuffing envelopes and applying labels/postage.**
- **Host Team (approx. 16-18 people) - Handout pledge packets and assist your group (table) at kickoff dinner.**
- **Communications Team (4-5 people) – Confirm attendance for Campaign kickoff dinner, follow up on collection of pledge cards**

In addition, the Campaign Committee is looking for **Technical/Media support** to prepare PowerPoint or video presentations at the kickoff event and as an ongoing member of the GoC Technical “Geek” Squad.

For more information, or to assist the Capital Campaign Committee as part of any of the above teams, please contact Dennis Karius (952) 220-4236.



VBS

Dawn Rolf
dawnrolf@gmail.com

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in some way with VBS this year! It was so successful with over 65 children there. We were able to raise \$1,000.00 for the Mission Central Project!



President's Letter

David Teske, 612-207-1355
david@ampliomarketing.com

Church Council did not meet in June, therefore, not much to report at this time. We are meeting in July and I will update you in the August Newsletter.

In Christ,
David Teske
Council President



It's almost here! A few quick Christmas in July party reminders:

On July 17th the fun starts at 2 pm and wraps up at 7:00 pm!

5 pm = Judging for Most Festively Dressed, White Elephant Exchange

1. Meat and beverages provided. Please bring a dish to share--consider an insulated container to keep it cold.
2. White Elephant Gift Exchange-- White Elephant means funny, weird, something you shouldn't go out and buy full price! However many gifts you bring is the number you trade and take home!
3. Most Festively Dressed Contest- This is open for lots of interpretation. Come dressed in your best red and green or elf swimsuit and let the judging begin. Highly coveted prizes are awarded.
4. Just a friendly reminder--if your child is swimming in the pool, please be in the pool with your child or poolside. Parent supervision is needed to keep everyone safe.
5. Other items to bring: sunscreen, lawn chairs, lawn games, swim diapers, towels, swimsuits.
6. Parking: You may enter the party through the shop garage located at 21340 County Road 30. Plenty of parking is available on that driveway. Otherwise, feel free to park in the house driveway: 9706 Lily Pond Lane, Corcoran and enter through the garage.

This is an outdoor party! In the event of rain, we'll move it to our rain date which is August 21st.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 1 st	Nina Nygren	Birthday
July 3 rd	Todd Zitzlsperger Claudia Wikman	Birthday Birthday
July 6 th	Ben & Dawn Rolf	Anniversary
July 7 th	Mia Garding Jesse Mathwig	Birthday Birthday
July 9 th	Brenda Richards	Birthday
July 10 th	Jim & Jean Small	Anniversary
July 11 th	David Hargreaves	Birthday
July 13 th	Ruby Madson Pastor & Susan Johnson	Birthday Anniversary
July 14 th	Samantha Olson	Birthday
July 15 th	Madison Wikman	Birthday
July 16 th	Christina Anderson Ellie Leimer	Birthday Birthday
July 21 st	Andy Madson Robert Richards Grace Rolf Esther Lund	Birthday Birthday Birthday Birthday
July 23 rd	Jacob McCreary Michael Diemand	Birthday Birthday
July 25 th	Bertha Oehlke	Birthday
July 28 th	Grant Gruenhagen	Birthday



Calendar

~ July 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Brenda on vacation	2
3 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	4	5 Brenda on Vacation Higher Things	6 Brenda on Vacation Higher Things 10a-11a Bible Study	7 Brenda on Vacation Higher Things	8 Brenda on Vacation Higher Things	9
10 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	11 7p-8p Divine Service	12 6:30p-7:30p Council	13 10a-11a Bible Study 6:30p-8p Church Council Meeting	14	15	16
17 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School 2p-7p Christmas in July Party (Pastor Johnson's Home)	18 Shadow the Pastor 7p-8p Divine Service	19 Shadow the Pastor 7p-8p CCC meeting	20 Shadow the Pastor 10a-11a Bible Study	21 Shadow the Pastor	22	23 Schaumburg Baby Shower
24 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	25 7p-8p Divine Service	26	27 10a-11a Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	Notes:					