



Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

4040 County Road 101 North • Plymouth • MN • 55446

Office Phone 763-478-6031

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)

“A Greater Story”

When it comes to the story of our lives, we usually begin writing early. “What do you want to be when you grow up?” We ask our kids. “Where do you want to retire?” We ask later on. “What are your dreams? Your goals? Where do you want to go in life?” In other words, “what's your story?” And we all want to write ourselves a good story.

And so what makes for a good story? A successful career and a house in the right neighborhood and a and a three-car garage, putting our kids through school, a nice retirement account, a vacation home—that's the American dream, right? Good friends, a supportive family, health, security, all that—we write that into our stories too. And why wouldn't we? These are all fine things.

Our whole society is geared towards making these good stories come to life. Our schools equip us to go out there and make a good living for ourselves. We're encouraged to “follow our dreams,” whatever those dreams are. We want to be successful, well-liked, financially stable, and all that. Just look at the promises our politicians make: better paying jobs, lower taxes, free education, health care, and homeland security. Almost all of these promises are about improving *our* lives, making the American dream a reality for us. Or to follow the metaphor; to write a good story.

Well and good, but if that's all there is, that's a pretty small story.

Lent is a strange season, because it belongs to a different story. The ashes, the desert, the palms, the donkey, the upper room, the garden, the crown, the cross, the cry, the tomb: it's all so strange. It's not “practical.” The temptation of Jesus doesn't tell us how to raise our kids or to have a happier life. The Garden of Gethsemane doesn't tell us what to invest in or give us career advice. And the cross doesn't tell us how to be well-liked or guide us through the home-buying process. It's all so strange because we can't wedge Lent or Passion Week into our teeny, tiny stories with so many of our teeny, tiny cares. The road to the cross is a much bigger story than our own.

If the stories of our lives are *limited* simply to the pursuit of the American dream, then Lent offers you nothing and Good Friday is incomprehensible and Easter cannot be any more significant than a Spring festival served with breakfast and jelly beans.

But the road to the cross and the resurrection pulls us into a story infinitely larger than ourselves. It starts at the beginning: mankind's fatal choice to make ourselves equal to God, corrupting ourselves and poisoning the world. But the Father, in his infinite compassion, sent His own Son to undo the terrible mess we've made of the universe. Christ was born into this darkness as the bright, divine light of hope. Yet, he let the darkness of death overtake Him, if even for only a moment. But paradoxically, the darkness of Good Friday was how Christ banished the darkness of humanity. The story of Christ is the story of the redemption of an otherwise hopeless world. It is not a story limited to the tiny stage of our own lives, but it is a story of cosmic proportions.

Yet this massive story is not so large that you would be lost in it. Because *you* are right there, in the middle of it all. Jesus goes out in the desert to be tempted *for you*. He enters Jerusalem as *your* king. He teaches in the temple because he is *your* teacher. He breaks his body for *you*. He sheds his blood for *you*. He suffers all the wrath of hell *for you*. Then He rises, so that *you* might rise with Him.

You've heard me say a million times that there's nothing wrong with a successful career, a nice Toyota, a new cedar deck, and a college fund for the kids. But we are grateful that this is not all there is to our story. Christ has pulled us into the greater story of our redemption, the story of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Passion Week is upon us, so come and stand in this cavernous story again and hear its beautiful melodies echoes through the expanse. Welcome Jesus as He enters into Jerusalem as our king. Watch Him as he clears the money-changers from the temple and reveals himself to be the *true* presence of God on earth. Sit with the disciples at the table as Christ gives us his own flesh and blood for our forgiveness. Follow Him into the garden as he agonizes over the mission the Father gave Him. Do not look away from the accusations and the thorns and the nails. Hear Him when he cries out, "it is finished!" He is talking about you, *your* redemption, which is now complete. And wait eagerly for the Father to vindicate all His work.

This is the story that your life fits into. Indeed, it's a story big enough for His whole church. It's big enough for *the whole world*, for everyone who has been given ears to hear and eyes to see.

Pastor Johnson



Worship this Month

The Sunday of the Passion

March 20 – Matthew 21:11 and Luke 23

Palms and Crosses

Today, we get to have our cake and eat it too. The service begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but the Gospel lesson recounts the events of Good Friday. Although it may seem odd to have *both* these readings, it gives us more opportunity to meditate on our Lord's passion. On Maundy Thursday, we are usually occupied with the Last Supper and the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, we are usually focused specifically on Christ's final hours on the cross. But many of the bits from Passion Week end up getting missed. So we read the passion of our Lord at length in addition to the traditional Palm Sunday reading.

We will also be conducting what is usually called a “Gospel Processional.” Instead of reading from the lectern as usual, the pastors will be carrying the scriptures into the center of the church and reading the Gospel lesson from there. This both emphasizes the honor of God's Word as well as demonstrates how the Gospel is to *go out* into the world (as it *goes out* into the congregation). In the end, it is all for the praise of Christ and His words.

Easter

March 27 – Luke 24:1-12

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;
today I will be glorified with him.
Yesterday I died with Christ;
today I will return to life with him.
Yesterday I was buried with Christ;
today I will rise with him from the tomb.

Gregory of Nazianzus



Next week is Holy Week – Glory of Christ will have a Maundy Thursday Divine Service March 24th at 7:00 pm. Good Friday Service is on March 25th at 7:00 pm. There will be NO Saturday evening service on March 26th.



Please join us on Sunday March 27th for our Easter Services and Breakfast! 8:00 am Divine Service, followed by Easter Breakfast served to us by our Elders! There is also a 10:30 am Divine Service.



Compassion Circle

Louise Werts
Louise6522@aol.com

Compassion Circle collected for Orphan Grain Train: Thanks to all the Compassion Circle ladies who helped assemble 50 Hygiene Kits on Monday March 7th for the Orphan Grain Train! Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 4th at 1:00 pm.



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

The Adult Bell Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm to go over our two Easter pieces. Adult Choir will begin rehearsal at 7:15 pm and will rehearse the joint Easter Bell/Choir piece first and then, our other Easter piece. NO Bells or Choir on Wednesday March 30th. Thank you for all you do for the Music at Glory of Christ!



Missions



Say "Aloha" to Missionsfest 2016! Mark May 7th on your calendars; Festivities begin at 3 PM.



Youth

Julie Anderson
612-791-0163
Julesanders@live.com

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.***



? 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!

What a wonderful Blessed day we had here at Glory of Christ Sunday March 13th with the Installation Service and Dinner/Reception for Pastor Krueger, Kim, Lewis and Ellie. Welcome!! We are so Blessed to have you here!



So, Who is Pastor Krueger? Sign up for a visit from him and find out! Sign up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. Also, look for more of the Installation photos on the Glory of Christ Facebook page. They will be up and loaded soon!

A note from Pastor Krueger:

Dear our new Glory of Christ family of faith:

"Thank you" does not seem to rightly express our appreciation for your warm and "wild" welcome. We are overwhelmed with all of your gifts, kind words and smiles. Thank you to every single one of you for your time, work and thoughtful gifts to welcome us into your midst. We pray the Lord continues to bless our reception of the risen Christ's gifts together.

In the Love of Christ, The Krueger's - Pastor, Kimberly, Lewis and Elizabeth



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 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 will begin in the Month of April starting on April 4th at 7:00 PM.

Voters Meeting: Sunday, April 3rd at 10:30 – We will have a Stewardship Bible Study which will lead into the voters meeting with a Capital campaign update and funding request. This meeting will conclude at the normal Bible Study time.

“A Congress on the Lutheran Confessions” 2016 Conference will be held this year on April 6-8 at the Bloomington Ramada Inn. More information and registration forms are on the table in the Narthex.

VBS 2016! Look for a bulletin insert in the Easter Service bulletins for VBS and registration information. Dates this year are June 13th through the 17th.

Quilters will meet this coming Tuesday, March 22nd at 9:00 am

Next Elders Meeting: Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 pm

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

Men's Reading Group: Saturday March 19th 6:30 am

2016 Liturgy Workshop

Glory of Christ Lutheran presents:
The Life is in the Blood

Rev. William Weedon

April 30, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Home Congregation _____

Registration costs are \$25.00 per person. This covers coffee and morning snack, an honorarium for the speaker, and lunch. **Students may attend free of charge.**

Glory of Christ Lutheran Church . 4040 Hwy 101 N . Plymouth, MN 55446

(763) 478-6031

www.gloryofchrist.org



President's Letter

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

Dear Members of Glory of Christ,

Greetings and welcome to spring in Minnesota! As we all come out of our winter hibernation, stretch our arms and legs, and open our eyes to look around, we will see there are a ton of exciting things happening in our congregation.

First on the schedule was the installation ceremony of Pastor Krueger on March 13th. Not only is this an exciting time for the Krueger family but also for the members of Glory of Christ. The best way to ensure a smooth transition for Pastor Krueger and our congregation is to come together as a family in Christ to support each other during this period of transition and into the future, as well.

I've received a number of questions concerning the building program during recent weeks and, although it may seem like we are in a quiet phase right now, there has been much activity taking place concerning the capital aspect of the project. For starters, the Capital Campaign Committee has been officially established and is being chaired by Bob Strom with Mike Lindh as the recording Secretary. This committee has met several times in recent weeks and is in the process of developing a plan for the capital campaign coupled with financing considerations related to our building project. Please look for further communication from the Capital Campaign Committee with additional details in the near future.

Concerning the activities of the Church Council, I wish there were more exciting things to report but it's hard to top the installation of a new Pastor and building project. During February's meeting the council approved moving expenses for Pastor Krueger and discussed, but deferred further action until the next meeting, the concept of having council members assigned to act as liaisons to the various groups within the congregation in order to facilitate communications and identify any needs that the various groups may have. At the March 8th meeting, the council will address the housing allowance for Pastor Krueger, some administrative matters concerning the Higher Things conference and other routine items, as necessary.

Lastly, I am happy to report that, through the hard work of Travis Dorweiler, the holes over the water main valves in the parking lot will be repaired this week. Thank you Travis for being such a valuable resource for Glory of Christ!

In Christ,
David Teske
Council President



Treasurer's Report

Jesse Huber
612-590-7632
Jphuber55@gmail.com

Glory of Christ Lutheran Church January 2016 YTD Income Statement Jan-16

	Jan-16		
	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Income			
Designated Funds Applied	0.00		0.00
General Offerings	52,080.42	50,307.00	1,773.42
Interest Income	267.62	167.00	100.62
Other Income	560.11	380.00	180.11
Silent Auction Receipts		0.00	0.00
Sunday School Offerings	101.01	167.00	(65.99)
Total Income	53,009.16	51,021.00	1,988.16
Gross Profit	\$ 53,009.16	\$ 51,021.00	\$ 1,988.16
Expenses			
Designated Expenses	0.00		0.00
Education	155.08	400.00	(244.92)
General and Administration	1,636.64	3,108.00	(1,471.36)
Missions	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Music	3,345.67	3,637.42	(291.75)
Occupancy	12,703.27	11,978.33	724.94
Pastoral Support	11,763.58	12,661.00	(897.42)
Total Expenses	37,104.24	39,284.75	(2,180.51)
Net Income	\$ 15,904.92	\$ 11,736.25	\$ 4,168.67

Summary of Results:

- General offerings are \$1.7K favorable for the month of January.
- Checking and savings account balances totaled \$105k as of 1/31/2016.
- Pastoral Support for January is favorable to plan given we have budgeted for an additional pastor.

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 4 th	Shirley Lavanger	Birthday
March 6 th	David & Naomi Teske	Anniversary
March 7 th	Ann Olson Kelly Dorweiler Caleb DeBlois	Birthday Birthday Birthday
March 9 th	Josh Olson	Birthday
March 10 th	Carl Hartness	Birthday
March 12 th	Beth Schoolman Andrea Heeren	Birthday Birthday
March 13 th	Alex Houck	Birthday
March 15 th	Ben Schaumberg	Birthday
March 17 th	Rebecca Neumann	Birthday
March 19 th	Todd & Christine Zitzlsperger	Anniversary
March 21 st	Alex Lindh	Birthday
March 26 th	Maddie Zitzlsperger Danny Corey	Birthday Birthday
March 28 th	Todd Schoolman	Birthday
March 30 th	Matt Houck	Birthday



Calendar

~ March 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10a-11:30a Moms' group 6:30p-7:30p Elders	2 10a-11a Bible Study 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 Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5 9a-4p Bethesda here 5p-6p Divine Service
6 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	7 1p-2p Compassion Circle Meeting (Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, County Road 101, Plymouth, MN)	8 6:30p-7:30p Council	9 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	10	11 6:30p-8:30p Game Night	12 9a-12p Church Cleaning 5p-6p Divine Service
13 9a-10a Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School 3:30p-5p Installation Divine Service of Pastor Krueger 5p-8p Pastor Krueger Reception/Dinner	14	15 10a-11:30a Moms' group	16 10a-11a Bible Study 11:30a-12p Mid-Morning Lenten Service 12p-1p Lenten Soup Lunch 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 6p-7p Lenten Dinner 6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal 7p-7:45p Mid-Week Lenten Service 7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal	17 7p-8p Music Meeting	18	19 6:30a-7:30a Men's Reading Group 5p-6p Divine Service
20 9a-10a Palm Sunday Divine Service 10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School	21	22	23 10a-11a Bible Study 4p-5:30p Moms' group 6:30p-7:15p Bells Rehearsal 7:15p-8p Adult Choir Rehearsal	24 7p-7:45p Maundy Thursday Service	25 7p-7:45p Good Friday Service	26
27 8a-9a Easter Divine Service 9a-10:15a Easter Breakfast 10:30a-11:30a Easter Divine Service	28	29 10a-11:30a Moms' group	30 10a-11a Bible Study 4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal 5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal 5:30p-6:30p Confirmation	31	Notes:	