



# 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](http://www.gloryofchrist.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Jeremiah Johnson, 816-716-2453 (cell)

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Kyle Krueger, 763-203-1152 (cell)

**Assistant Pastor for Missions:** Rev. John Fehrmann, 612-940-1927 (cell)

**Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Dean Weibel

## Pastor's Letter

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

### Distracted Love

I'm never going to get this article done.

It's Monday afternoon, and here I am sitting at the kitchen table in the vain hope that I might be able to write a newsletter article before dinner.

"Dad, can you fix this for me?"

"I don't understand this homework."

"Can I have some fruit?"

"Honey, do you remember to call your mom about that date in July?"

Around my house, there's always someone who needs a snack or a math problem explained or something fixed. I'll bet I could get a lot more done if I just had one day without all these distractions.

I wonder if Jesus ever thought that.

During most of His ministry, Jesus was hounded by crowds. Like a legion of needy children, they peppered him with questions and asked for favors. One woman even tugged on his robe. But even Jesus needed to get away from all the distractions.

After Herod had John the Baptist executed, Jesus went off by himself. Perhaps he was mourning for His cousin or praying or just trying to find a moment's peace. The scriptures don't tell us why he went off by Himself, but they do tell us that his solitude was short-lived. The crowds from all the towns trailed Jesus and invaded his moment of silence.

So on they came, like they always did, wanting this and asking for that. They wanted Jesus to restore their sight and heal their limbs. They wanted to hear Jesus teach and cast out demons. They were hungry and harassed and helpless. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

But Jesus didn't try and hide in the bushes or try and make a quick exit. No, He had *compassion* on them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

He had compassion on them because they weren't just distractions; they were people, people Jesus came to save.

Quite often what seems like just another distraction is, in reality, a person who is in need of our care. A friend who needs a listening ear, a child who wants to share an apple, the lonely widower at the end of the street, someone who needs a hand unloading a trailer: distractions are inevitable when we love our neighbor, because a distraction is just a need that is important enough to demand our attention. And if we love our neighbor as ourselves, their needs are always important enough to demand our attention.

Christ didn't come to maintain a streamlined calendar or dominate mighty to-do lists. Jesus' ministry was filled with a million interruptions and distractions. But that isn't because He couldn't master the seven habits of highly effective people. Our Lord shows us the true way of servanthood. For the Son of Man did not come to *be* served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. (Mt 20:28)

So now it's Wednesday night, and this article still isn't quite done. But I don't regret reading Dora the Explorer again or the unplanned phone call or the last-minute "pastor, can we talk?" Distractions or not, they were gracious opportunities to serve rather than be served. And every interruption reminds me that our Lord's greater compassion. No matter how many times we lay the same worries at his feet or confess the same sins or come back asking for healing, Jesus still has time for us. He did not turn away the blind man or the widow or the prostitute. And he will not turn away you.



## Worship this Month

**Easter 7**

**May 8 – John 17:20-26**

Jesus is praying for you.

Perhaps it's a strange thought, but John 17 is pretty clear: Jesus is praying for you and *all* of His disciples. What's He praying for? He is praying that we would be united in Him, that we would receive his glory, that we would be where He is, and that God's love would be in us.

Divine unity, glory, presence, and love: it's a pretty tall order. The disciples with their confusion and their doubting and their betrayal and their fear seem like they're a long way from what Jesus is praying for. And we can sympathise, because with our fighting and our selfishness and our shame, *our* lives seem like a far cry from all these divine qualities. But thankfully, Jesus isn't telling us to *achieve* these things; He's *praying* that we would have them. We didn't ask for divine unity and love, but Jesus is asking for us. Jesus is asking the Father to *give* these gifts to us, quite apart from our striving.

And Jesus is still praying the same prayer for us today.

## **Day of Pentecost**

### **May 15 – John 14:23-31**

“A Miracle of Speaking and Hearing!”

Pentecost is a miracle of words being spoken – words the Holy Spirit brings us from the tongue of Jesus – words Jesus received from the Father. Words are the tool, the weapon, the vehicle, the means of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Holy Spirit enters the hearts of people through the ears of people. The Holy Spirit revives our hearts through our ears. He is here as we gather in Jesus name and each Lord’s Day in the morning, just as He was on the Sunday morning of the first Pentecost. He is present in your words of witness to the Gospel of Christ to others as God gives you both the opportunity and the Gospel message to speak. And if you think you are an unfit vessel to confess Christ in your daily vocations, it’s not about you, but the words of hope and love and life He has given you to speak. The Holy Spirit’s office is fulfilled when He points our hearts to what Jesus does and says and gives.

## **Holy Trinity**

### **May 22**

Christians don’t really believe in God. That is, those sincere folk who say things like, “Well, I’m Christian, you’re Buddhist, but the main thing is that we all believe in God,” are not quite right. Our God has a face, Jesus; a name, Trinity. Our God comes to us in history, in specific, observable ways that define an agent, an identity. We can’t make this God mean anything we like. Trinity Sunday is the church’s reminder of the distinctive identity of our God.

-William Willimon

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### **May 29 – Luke 7:1-10**

“Worthiness Before God”

The centurion knew two important truths. He knew he was unworthy of Jesus’ presence and help. But he also knew and believed that, despite his unworthiness, Jesus could provide everything he needed with a mere word. *But say the word, and let my servant be healed.*” All that the centurion wanted was a simple word. He knew from his life’s vocation that he could issue a simple command, and the men under him would carry it out. How much more could God incarnate issue a simple word, and since everything is under the authority of God, that simple word would be as good as done. Jesus didn’t need to come personally. He just needed to come in the power of a simple word.

If there’s ever a lesson we need to remember from the Word of God, it is that we are not worthy of His grace. That’s not exactly a popular lesson to learn, but like many life lessons, the most important lessons aren’t always the easiest ones to hear. But when the reality of our unworthiness strikes our souls, we can truly appreciate this greater reality: Despite our unworthiness, Jesus comes to us in His Word and by a messenger says, “I... Almighty, Perfect, Holy, Righteous God- forgive **you** and love **you**.” That’s a lesson worth remembering, now and forever! Amen



# Compassion Circle

Louise Werts  
Louise6522@aol.com

**The Compassion Circle** had an enjoyable luncheon at our last meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with 14 attending and with Pastor Krueger sharing a nice message with us. **It was decided to change our meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month.** We will have our first fall meeting on the 12th of Sept. at 1:00p.m.

**Quilters:** A big **Thank You** to all the dedicated quilters, from cutting squares, sewing, ironing, tying and furnishing treats for our coffee breaks. We finished 59 quilts this season! Our quilts went many directions this year. They went to Orphan Grain Train, Pastor Fehrmann, TFLSchool, a refugee family and LINC. Thanks to all who furnished us with fabric and sheets to fulfill our Mission task. Please save your things for next fall!

The Quilters





## 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

**End of year Children's Choir & Chimes Pizza Party!** Next Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> will be the last rehearsals of the year for both Children's Choir and Children's Chimes. The Choir will rehearse from 4:30 to 4:45 and Chimes will be from 4:45 to 5:00 followed by an end of the year pizza party. Hope to see all of the choir and chime children there!



## Missions



**Say "Aloha" to Missionsfest 2016! Tomorrow- May 7<sup>th</sup>!** It's not too late to sign up! Simply click this [link](#) and fill out your information. It will only take a minute, and you will have time to go find your favorite Hawaiian shirt after! Plan on donating? This [link](#) will take you to the donation form. We hope to see you on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Social hour starts at 3 PM. For more information on the night, visit [www.gloryofchrist.org](http://www.gloryofchrist.org)



# 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 next one is scheduled for Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**NO Wednesday Morning Bible Study on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.** Both Pastor Johnson and Pastor Krueger will be at a Pastoral Conference Monday through Wednesday next week.

**NO Mom's Group meeting the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>** due to the Pastoral Conference.

**Change of date and Time for Church Council Meeting!** Church Council will meet on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Please note the change of day and time.

**Save the Date: The Johnson's 3rd Annual Christmas in July party** will be held on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. If you haven't come before, this is the year to start--we'll be grilling out, swimming, lounging by the pool, and having our annual White Elephant gift exchange and Most Festively dressed contest. ***Please note: In the event of rain, the party will be moved to August, 21st at 2 pm.***



**2016 Glory of Christ Men's Retreat** The men's retreat has been set for September 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**Spring Instruction Class** - Our Spring 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.

**Adult Bible Class:** On Sunday May 1st we began a study based on the book, *“Stewardship Under the Cross: Stewardship for the Confessional Lutheran Parish”*. (Rev. Heath Curtis) **“Stewardship in not a subcategory of the Christian life; it is the Christian life. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won’t last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives His life in His Word, Baptism, and Absolution and the Lord’s Supper.”** Pg. 29-30. Please join us!

**Teaching Our Youth to Discern the Truth in a Deceptive World - Tuesday, May 17, 7:30**, Rm F2128, Totino Fine Arts, Univ. of Northwestern, 3003 N Snelling, Roseville. Shyla Allard will be sharing some practical ways that you can help young people to discern the truth in the deceptive world we live in. Her talk will include ideas for teaching the truth and reliability of the Scriptures, helping our youth to understand the Biblical view of the nature of mankind and ideas for helping our young people to understand and articulate the big picture view of the world through the lens of the Bible - starting from the very first verse in the creation account. Shyla has worked with the youth of a large metro church for several years and leads them on a museum trip to Kentucky and Chicago each year. All Meetings are free and open to the public, an offering will be accepted.



**Youth**

**Julie Anderson**  
612-791-0163  
[Julesanders@live.com](mailto:Julesanders@live.com)

**Confirmation Sunday!** Please join us on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 9:00 am Divine Service to celebrate with our Confirmands: Bill Anderson III, Chris Corey and Claudia Wikman! May God Bless them on this Special Day!

April 19, 2016

Dear Friends at GOC,

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers sent our way here in Cape Girardeau. This has been quite the unexpected experience. As I told Norm one morning - "this is a fine mess we've gotten ourselves into." Now we're hoping for enough strength to get to rehab and just enough recovery to get Norm back to Minnesota. As for me, I don't care if I ever spend another night in a hotel. I may never leave Minnesota again.

Folks here have been most kind and St. Francis a fine hospital. There is always something to be thankful for.

In His love,

Susan & Norm





**VBS**

**Dawn Rolf**  
Dawnrolf@gmail.com



Join Us and Bring a Friend

**VBS at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church  
June 13 - 17, 2016**

**Pre K - 5th Grade, 8:30 am early drop off  
9 am - Noon**

Bible stories, crafts, music, games, and snack  
For more information and to register go to  
**[www.gloryofchrist.org](http://www.gloryofchrist.org) or call 763-478-6031**

**All this is FREE**



# President's Letter

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

Dear Members of Glory of Christ,

Wow! Not only are the temperatures outside heating up, but the schedule of activities at Glory of Christ is on fire right now. There are so many members working so hard on multiple initiatives right now that it's almost dizzying to keep track of it all. However, I'll do my best to recap, at a high level, the major topics that are top-of-mind for the Council and Capital Campaign Committee.

First, Dennis Karius continues to work hard on coordination of the capital campaign and development of materials. Part of this process involves developing a theme for the campaign and crafting materials consistent with the messaging intended by the campaign theme. Not an easy task but I know Dennis is up to it and I really appreciate all of his effort. "What's the theme for the capital campaign?", I suspect you're wondering. I'll let the Capital Campaign Committee roll that out at its proper time.

Also concerning the capital campaign, we are busy contacting potential lenders for the building project, developing forward-looking financial statements and planning the event schedule in order to stay on track with a spring 2017 ground breaking. I would like to thank all of the members of the Capital Campaign Committee and the Council for helping us to keep moving forward.

Concerning the Council, our activities, for the most part, have been related to getting things tee'd-up so that the Capital Campaign Committee can keep moving forward and taking care of some of the routine things necessary to keep things running smoothly at Glory of Christ. I don't think we would be able to keep track of it all without Brenda's help. Thanks Brenda!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone at Mission Fest.

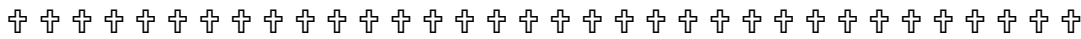
In Christ,  
David Teske  
Council President



# Serving this Month

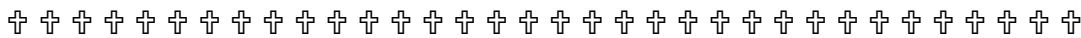
## **Serving Sunday: (May 8, 2016)**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Coffee Servers:    | Gayle Barnaby, Leonard Albers & Brenda Richards |
| Acolyte:           | Will Brolsma                                    |
| Elders:            | Roger Hargreaves & Curt Woolfolk                |
| Ushers:            | Mark Swenson & David Barnaby                    |
| Altar Guild:       | Karen Swenson & Brenda Richards                 |
| Offering Counters: | David & Naomi Teske                             |
| Bread Baker:       | Susan Johnson                                   |
| Bread Deliverer:   | Janis Kimmel                                    |



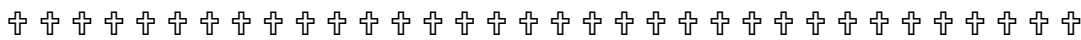
## **Serving Sunday: (May 15, 2016)**

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Coffee Servers:    | Rhea Schulz & Linda Corey        |
| Acolyte:           | Chris Corey                      |
| Processional:      | Austin Corey                     |
| Elders:            | Roger Hargreaves & Curt Woolfolk |
| Ushers:            | Kim Diemand & Chuck McGriff      |
| Altar Guild:       | Beth Schoolman & Brenda Richards |
| Offering Counters: | Barbie Gruenhagen & Mike Miller  |
| Bread Baker:       | Charlotte Smith                  |
| Bread Deliverer:   | Sharla Woolfolk                  |



## **Serving Sunday: (May 22, 2016)**

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Coffee Servers:    | Carla Claussen & Sandi Edenborg  |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>    | ?                                |
| Processional:      | Austin Corey                     |
| Elders:            | Roger Hargreaves & Curt Woolfolk |
| Ushers:            | Jerry Malo & Brian Malo          |
| Altar Guild:       | Kevin & Suzy Skau                |
| Offering Counters: | Lori Beck & Carl Hartness        |
| Bread Baker:       | Sandi Edenborg                   |
| Bread Deliverer:   | Beth Schoolman                   |



## **Serving Sunday: (May 29, 2016)**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Coffee Servers:    | Brenda Richards & Gen Dykhoff             |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>    | ?   |
| Elders:            | Roger Hargreaves & Curt Woolfolk          |
| <b>Ushers:</b>     | Leonard Albers & ? <b>Need Volunteer!</b> |
| Altar Guild:       | Jill Larson & Gayle McGriff               |
| Offering Counters: | Tim Lavanger & Russ McBroom               |
| Bread Baker:       | Gayle Barnaby                             |
| Bread Deliverer:   | Lori Beck                                 |



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

|                      |   |                                     |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| May 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Chuck & Marilyn Scharlau                              | Anniversary                         |
| May 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Eleanor Rolf  | Birthday                            |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup> | Kent Rudeen & Janelle Franzmeier                      | Anniversary                         |
| May 15 <sup>th</sup> | Leroy & Betty Reinke<br>Janet Karius<br>Jill Eickhoff | Anniversary<br>Birthday<br>Birthday |
| May 16 <sup>th</sup> | Charlotte Smith                                       | Birthday                            |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup> | Maciej Justat   | Birthday                            |
| May 20 <sup>th</sup> | Sarah DeBlois   | Birthday                            |
| May 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Rachel Werts  | Birthday                            |
| May 28 <sup>th</sup> | Isadora Eickhoff<br>Janis Kimmel<br>Andrea Neumann    | Birthday<br>Birthday<br>Birthday    |
| May 30 <sup>th</sup> | Drew Johnson<br>Travis & Kelly Dorweiler              | Birthday<br>Anniversary             |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup> | Mike & Lea Connealy                                   | Anniversary                         |



# Calendar

| ~ May 2016 ~   |  |                              |  |                                  |                                     |                                       |
|--|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                          | Wed  | Thu                              | Fri                                 | Sat                                   |
| <b>1</b><br>9a-10a Divine Service<br>10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School<br>12p-1p Youth Group                                 | <b>2</b><br>1p-2p Compassion Circle Meeting (Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, County Road 101, Plymouth, MN)<br>7p-8p Divine Service | <b>3</b><br>7p-8p Elders     | <b>4</b><br>10a-11a Bible Study<br>4p-5:30p Moms' group<br>4:30p-5p Children's Choir Rehearsal<br>5p-5:30p Children's Chimes Rehearsal<br>5:30p-6:30p Confirmation<br>6:15p-6:45p Bells Rehearsal<br>7:45p-8:45p Adult Choir Rehearsal | <b>5</b><br>7p-8p Ascension      | <b>6</b>                            | <b>7</b><br>Missionfest               |
| <b>8</b><br>9a-10a Divine Service<br>10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School   | <b>9</b><br>7p-8p Divine Service   | <b>10</b>                    | <b>11</b><br>4:30p-4:45p Children's Choir Rehearsal<br>4:45p-5p Children's Chimes Rehearsal<br>5p-6p Children's Choir & Chimes Pizza Party   | <b>12</b><br>6:30p-7:30p Council | <b>13</b><br>6:30p-8:30p Game Night | <b>14</b>                             |
| <b>15</b><br>9a-10a Divine Service<br>10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School  | <b>16</b><br>7p-8p Divine Service  | <b>17</b><br>6:30p-7:30p CCC | <b>18</b><br>10a-11a Bible Study<br>6:45p-7:30p Bells Rehearsal  | <b>19</b>                        | <b>20</b>                           | <b>21</b><br>Confirmation Questioning |
| <b>22</b><br>Confirmation Day<br>9a-10a Divine Service<br>10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School<br>7p-8:30p After the final exam | <b>23</b><br>7p-8p Divine Service  | <b>24</b>                    | <b>25</b><br>10a-11a Bible Study   | <b>26</b>                        | <b>27</b>                           | <b>28</b>                             |
| <b>29</b><br>9a-10a Divine Service<br>10:30a-11:30a Bible Class/Sunday School  | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>                    | <b>Notes:</b>  |                                  |                                     |                                       |