



# *The Christ Messenger*

Christ Lutheran Church

Vienna, West Virginia

August 2020



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message (Pages 1-2)  
 Noon Prayer (Page 3)  
 Pop Up Market (Page 4)  
 Prayer List/Birthdays. (Page 5)  
 Good Samaritan Center  
 (Page 6)  
 Back to School Bash (Page 7)  
 August 2020 Calendar  
 (insert)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

During the last two weeks of July, our modem stopped working. At our house, you would have thought the world was coming to an end. How are we to get anything done without an internet connection? How are we going to entertain ourselves without cable? How do we connect with other people without the phone line working?

It took this disruption for me to realize how much I have turned the internet into an idol, a god. A god and an idol that disconnects me from my relationship with God and my neighbor. An idol that draws me away from Jesus Christ and leads me to trust in something else other than God.

What did I/we do for two weeks without the internet at our house? We prioritized what was truly important to us—our relationship with God in Jesus Christ through reading the Word of God revealed in the Holy Scriptures and daily prayer, spending more intentional time to connect with one another as a family and with our neighbors (including our neighbors who live next door to us) and to spend some time in God's creation through gardening.



Even with the best intentions, these priorities (what we deem is important in our lives) can become an idol or mini god to themselves.

In the Large Catechism, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther writes this in explanation in response to the first commandment, *"You are to have no other gods"*: *'A "god" is the term for that to which we are look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart. As I have often said, it is the truest and faith of the heart alone that makes both God and an idol. If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and wrong, there you do not have the true God.'*<sup>1</sup>



**A Congregation of the West Virginia—Western Maryland Synod &  
 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**



Ultimately, it comes down to, who do we trust? As we examine our own conscience, what does our individual and communal heart(s) cling to? All of the things I mentioned earlier as priorities (reading my Bible, connecting with my family and gardening in God's creation), are good things to do. These things by themselves can be turned into idols or god(s) by themselves, when we seek refuge, comfort and help from them; instead of putting our trust in God through Jesus Christ, who is Savior and Lord of all.

Luther continues, "It is God alone from whom we receive everything good and by whom we are delivered from all evil."<sup>2</sup>

Only through Jesus Christ are we delivered from all evil and freed from all the things we have made into gods and idols. Yes, there might be some short term happiness created by our idols and gods. However, these things will never bring us everlasting joy.

When we speak of idolatry, we must be careful and on guard to not make church an idol or god. It may be true that coming to worship on Sunday mornings in person or online might make us "feel good" for the rest of the week. We might enjoy connecting with other Christians in the body of Christ. We might like certain hymns or worship services more than others. We might like the sermons preached (or not). We might enjoy doing projects together.

At the end of the day, none of the things I listed above that we might do as a church is the reason the Church gathers. The Church first and foremost gathers to teach and preach Christ crucified and risen, as we gather around Word and Sacrament ministry. Everything else then becomes secondary. Family, friends, traditions, doing service projects, etc. will not deliver us from the evil of this world. These cannot bring about the forgiveness of sins because the emphasis on what human beings can do; instead of trusting and relying upon the one true God embodied in Jesus Christ.

Only by the power of the Holy Spirit are we able to trust and believe in God's promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. With faith, comes obedience. Obedience to God alone and not to oneself. Faith in Christ enables us to let go of our control and to recognize God's presence through Jesus Christ, in the midst of our ordinary lives with ordinary people.

If there is a silver lining to 2020, it is that with the disruption caused by COVID19; God invites us to deeper opportunities to recognize Christ is in our midst. And to recognize that all that we do is not about making ourselves full of hubris; or using the works to save ourselves spiritually. It is about what God is doing in Jesus Christ who is in our midst, in all circumstances, and forgiving and loving us unconditionally. It is about trusting in God's promise embodied in Jesus Christ; from which all of our words and actions flow as derivatives of God's love in Jesus Christ. It is about God's salvation fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and only by the power of the Holy Spirit are we able to come to trust and believe in Christ.

Here we stand before God. We lay down our idols and gods at the base of the cross; at Jesus' feet. We hear Christ' words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." There is death and there is resurrection. There is life and there is death.

Death no longer has dominion, for everything that is old has passed away. All things are made new in Jesus Christ. Once again, we look forward to not only the salvation we receive in the future to come; we live in the present—trusting in God's mercy, love and forgiveness abound in Christ alone.

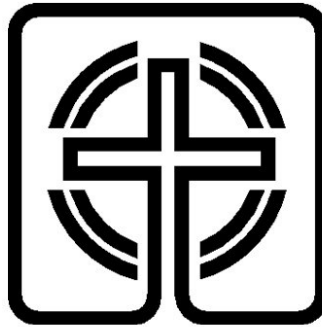
The modem was eventually replaced. I have to be honest, we don't spend nearly the amount of time on the internet that we were doing prior to the internet not working. We put our hope and trust in the one true God. It is here, where we are made freed in Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. By his grace, we go forth to serve with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Serving with you in Christ,  
Rev. Emilie Theobald-Rowlands

<sup>1</sup> Kolb, R. & Wengert, T. The Book of Concord: the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, 2000, p. 368 & 369.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

***Need a break in your day to  
center yourself in Christ?***



***Enjoy 10-15 minutes of Noon Prayer  
(Suffrages) with us via Facebook Live!***

***Wednesdays (12-12:15 P.M.)***

***8/5, 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26***

***Join us for prayer at:***

***[https://www.facebook.com/  
ChristLutheranChurchVlennaWV](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchVlennaWV)***

LETTUCE BE  
YOUR VEGGIE SHOP  
THIS YEAR

# POP UP MARKET

Located in the parking lot of  
1037 Market Street

June 11 10:00 am-noon, July 9, 1:30-3:00pm,  
August 20 1:30 - 3:00, September 17 1:30-  
3:00, and October 8th  
from 10:00am - 12:00pm



**SNAP, Credit, Debit, Cash accepted.**

Fresh West Virginia Produce  
Everyone Welcome

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY FAITHLINK AND  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES INC.**



# **PRAYER LIST– August 2020**

## **We keep the following people in our prayers:**

Glen Addis; Wesley Archer; Tara Bannister; Russell Behnke; Richard Dilingier; Jerry John DiNicola; Pam Goots; Ann Hammer; Heather; Mary Hennen; Carrie Hommond; Diana Houllings; Diana Huddleson; Laura Lemley; Johnnie Mays; Rob Miser; Ben Moore; Mary Ann Roddy; Dottie Rothwell; Les Rothwell; Gean Secreto; April Sowards, Mildred Stanley; Keith Tanner; Zane Thorpe, April Tibbs; Donna Vincent; Terry & Vicki Wilson; Lois (Steege) Wood; police and first responders; our troops; Christians and other minorities in the Middle East; people in the Ukraine and eastern Europe; pray for peace; and for our military, especially for Airman Elijah Modesitt (U.S. Airforce)., for all who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and/or hospitalized for the virus, for all who have died from the virus, for all of our medical personnel and first responders who are treating patients, for all families and loved ones separated by quarantines, for people who do not have access to medical care to be treated, for folks who are unemployed and the underemployed.

## **ATTENTION!!!!**

We are working to update our prayer list to reflect the most recent needs of our congregation. If you have a prayer request, or need to change a request that you have previously made, please contact the church office, either by email or phone. Next month we will be starting the list from scratch, so if you have someone who you would like to remain on the list, please let us know about that too.

Thanks!

## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**



### **Birthdays**

August 3: Raeven Clampitt

August 4: Katherine Bandy

August 7: Paul Gockstetter

August 14: Sam Miser

August 19: Robert Behnke

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

August 1: Cynthia and Nick Read

August 3: Rocky & Dave Freeman

August 6: Jenny & Mike Knotts

August 20: Peggy & Bill Rogers





***THE GOOD SAMARITAN ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2020***  
***HAMBURGER HELPER***



***Due to COVID19, there has been an increased demand for food at GSC. The following items are needed at this time: Jello and frosting (for icing). If you have any of these items at your house and would like to donate these to GSC, please leave these at items at the in the crates located by the door of the main entry. Thank you in advance for your help!***

\*\*\*\*\*

***THANK YOU FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY, KAY ROWAN!***

Our Financial Secretary, Kay Rowan wishes to say thank you to everyone for their continued support through their financial giving to the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church. She thanks everyone for the kind and encouraging notes that continue to be sent with the offerings. Kay truly appreciates it and says "thank you."

***As we go through the summer months, please continue to remember Christ Lutheran Church in your offerings. Offerings can be mailed to the following address:***

Attention: Kay Rowan, Financial Secretary, c/o Christ Lutheran Church  
4513 Grand Central Avenue, Vienna West Virginia 26105

***Thanks for your continued prayers and support!***

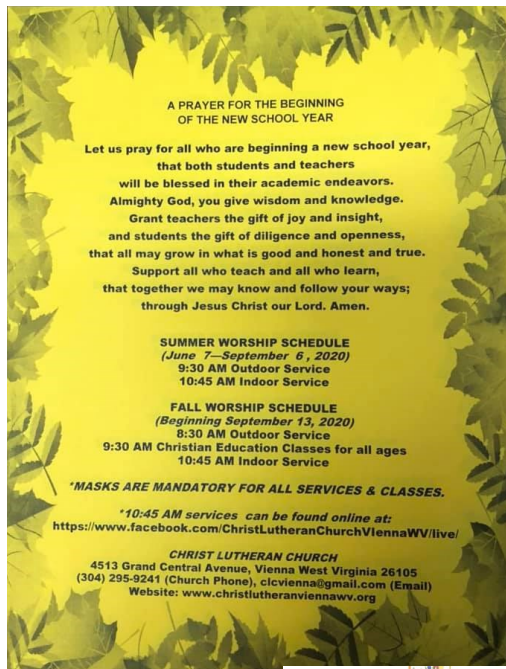
# THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THE ASSEMBLY OF THE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH BAGS!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the assembly of 500 bags for the Back to School bags. Items included: toothpaste, toothbrushes, Kleenex packs, chips/Rice Crispy treats and pencils. A prayer for the start of the new school year was included with each bag, along with the fall worship schedule for Christ Lutheran Church.

Pastor Rowlands delivered the 500 bags to the FaithLink/Community Resources Inc. office on August 3, 2020.

**This year's Back to School Bash will be held on  
Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM at the Grand Central Mall.  
If you know of someone who has school age children, please let them know  
this event will be taking place this year at the Mall.**



## Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays

Outdoor Worship 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Worship 10:45 a.m.

## Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rev. Emilie Theobald-Rowlands, Pastor

## Contact Us

Phone: (304)295-9241

Email: [clcvienna@gmail.com](mailto:clcvienna@gmail.com)

Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church

Website: [www.christlutheranviennawv.org](http://www.christlutheranviennawv.org)

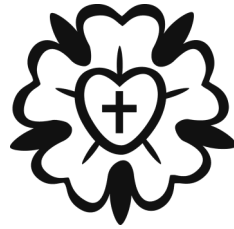
## Newsletter Submissions

Place items for the newsletter in the church mailbox or email to church office by the 25th of the month. Please include your name with the

submission.

Thank you!

Christ Lutheran Church  
4513 Grand Central Ave.  
Vienna, WV 26105



## Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

"As Children of God,  
nourished by Word,  
sacrament and the  
fellowship of loving, hopeful  
believers, we are guided by  
the Holy Spirit to witness to  
Christ's saving presence in  
this world."