



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

November 2020

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Our Mission:

As Children of God,
nourished by the Word,
Sacrament and Fellowship
of loving, forgiving, and
hopeful believers—
WE are guided by the Holy
Spirit to WITNESS to Christ's
saving presence in the
World!

Matthew 16: 24-25

²⁴"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.'" *Holy Bible, New International Version®*

Back in the Golden Age of television--gosh, it's kind of scary to tell you that I remember the Golden Age of *anything*—but back in the Golden Age of television, game shows were pretty popular and I can remember a favorite at my house was called "What's My Line?" Do any of you recall that one? A panel of celebrities would try to guess the occupation of a contestant by asking a series of questions. I hate to say that life is like a game show, but fortunately or not, life is full of questions, both the kind the panel might ask and the kind we ask ourselves...What am I doing with my life? Just what is my purpose here on earth? What will tomorrow bring? What is God's plan for me? What can I do to make this world a better place? Who am I, really?

In Chapter 16 of *Matthew*, Jesus questioned His disciples, asking, "Who do people say I am?" Some of them answered, "Elijah" and others said, "John the Baptist," but our old friend Peter, spoke up and said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" With that answer, Peter moved to the head of the class...He became Jesus' star pupil because he understood that Jesus was not just a man, but the living Son of the living God, the Messiah long waited for, and Peter was pretty pleased with himself....He thought that he had everything figured out-He had become the Rock, indispensable to his Teacher and Friend, and he was feeling both proud and confident that he knew *exactly* what the future would hold. For Peter, the time of questioning was over....Or was it?

Jesus' answer about what the future held for Him was certainly not what Peter expected to hear. Jesus said bluntly that He would suffer at the hands of the religious leaders and be put to death, but that God would raise Him into newness of life on the third day. Jesus was explaining that He was to be a Servant, a Suffering Servant, whose death and resurrection would save the whole world. But Peter, out of love and respect, and perhaps, his own misguided ideas about what a Messiah should be, took Jesus aside and rebuked Him by saying that it wasn't possible, that this wasn't what the future should hold for Him. Peter could not contemplate, he could not fathom Jesus suffering and dying, not only because of his great love for Him, but also because he was having trouble understanding a Messiah Who was not a conqueror but a humble servant. Poor Peter—the same Peter who had been so right in realizing Who Christ was—was just as wrong in his knowledge of why Christ had come to earth. Peter just didn't get it and Jesus rebuked Peter with "'You're a stumbling block to me because you're not on the side of God but on the side of men!'"

Imagine the look on Peter's face...this star pupil had been demoted and sent to the back of the class. He just didn't comprehend that God's plan is not man's plan, and that no matter how much he would like to control the situation, it was out of his hands. Little did Peter know the crosses that lay ahead for him.

I don't have to tell you because I figure you already know that life is not easy and life is not fair. All of us have had, and will continue to, have crosses to bear...problems and concerns with family and friends, doubts about the future, especially in this time of COVID-19, fears about civil unrest and financial uncertainties, anxieties about a contentious election, worries about our health and the health of our loved ones. But no matter what cross you bear, remember that Jesus walks with you; no matter how heavy your burdens or deep your despair, Jesus matches you step for step...When Jesus Christ asks us to take up our crosses and follow Him, He doesn't say that life will be fair or worry-free and He certainly doesn't promise us blue skies and happy endings.

Jesus doesn't call us to lives of ease, but He does call us to lives of service and, yes, sacrifice but, above all, commitment to Him. When Jesus Christ calls us to take up our crosses and follow Him, He gives us a challenge, but also, a wonderful promise...that no matter how heavy the burden or how long the road, He will be with us...that our crosses are His crosses, too...that His comfort and love and presence are with us always, no matter what the future holds. This is our challenge and, although we don't always realize it, our blessing, still today...a challenge to live lives centered not on self or the world and its empty promises, but lives spent in discipleship, mercy and commitment anchored in the promise of God's mercy and grace and the love of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Written by Melissa Bannister

Help Wanted!

During the pastoral changes, we are looking for articles to temporarily replace the "Pastor's Message" section of our newsletter. If you have any ideas or something you would like to submit, please email the church office.

Thank you for your support!

November Worship Schedule

November 1 - 10 AM
(All Saints' Sunday)

November 8 - 10 AM
(Veteran's Day)

November 15 - 10 AM

November 22 - 10 AM

November 29 - 10 AM



Reader & Usher Schedule

November 1
Reader – Al Behnke
Usher – Kay Rowan

November 8
Reader – Larry Armstrong
Usher – Al Behnke

November 15
Reader – Dave Freeman
Usher – Kay Rowan

November 22
Reader – Al Behnke
Usher – Vicki Wilson

November 29
Reader – Dave Freeman
Usher – Kay Rowan



November Birthdays

November 2 – Tyson Wagoner
November 13 – Kay Rowan
November 13 – Drew Padgett
November 20 – Larry Armstrong

Good Samaritan Center Item of the Month

Cake Frosting

Due to COVID-19, Good Samaritan Center is in need of additional items. This includes ketchup, jello, macaroni and cheese, and other non-perishables. Please drop any donations in the crates by the glass doors. Thank you!



Harvest Home Sunday

Sunday, November 22nd, is Harvest Home Sunday.

Please support the Good Samaritan Center by bringing canned goods to Christ Lutheran on that Sunday. It is especially important this year for us to support this cause as much as we can. Thank you for your generosity.

**Thank you to everyone who came out for the Blessing
of the Animals on October 3, 2020!**



Prayer List

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Glen Addis; Wesley Archer; Tara Bannister; Russell Behnke; Richard Dilinger; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Pam Goots; Ann Hammer; Heather; Mary Hennen; Carrie Hommond; Diana Houllings; Diana Huddleson; Laura Lemley; Jacob Logue; Johnnie Mays; Joel McGuier; 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.

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday 8:30-1:00
Thursday 8:30-1:00

Church Phone Number:

304-295-9241

Church Email:

CLCVienna@gmail.com

Church Address:

4513 Grand Central Avenue
Vienna, WV 26105

Church Web Page:

<https://christlutheranviennawv.org/>

Church Facebook Page:

[Facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranchurchviennawv)

Time Change!



REMINDER:

**October 31/November 1 is the fall time change.
Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.**

COVID Information:

Due to COVID-19 and the pastoral transition, Christ Lutheran Church is moving to one service, Sundays at 10 AM. To make sure that CLC is CDC compliant, masks are required, social distancing must be maintained, and hand sanitizer is provided in each pew.

If there comes a time when the numbers in our area are too high to continue with in person worship, there will be an email sent out no later than the Thursday before the service. There will also be an announcement posted on the Facebook page. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Freeman:
freemand@marietta.edu