



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church

Vienna, West Virginia

October 2020



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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Goodbyes are never easy. As I write this article, I realize this will be my last month with you as the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Vienna, West Virginia. Beginning November 1, 2020, I will be starting a new chapter of my life as a full time stay at home mom to Elizabeth and wife to Matt in a new place. This congregation will be starting a new chapter in the ministry God calls each of you to serve as baptized children centered in Jesus Christ.

When we arrived Labor Day weekend in 2012, I never imagined the adventures we would have together as pastor and laypeople. We have laughed, mourned and from time to time we disagreed with one another. I assure you, that conflict in a congregation can be opportunities for growth for the pastor and the laypeople.

God has been and continues to be with us in all of it.

Looking back from 2012 to 2020, we have accomplished a lot together. Some of these accomplishments include:

- A deeper theological understanding of our Triune God through the lens of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions
- Leaders continue to step forward and grow in their leadership
- The mortgage that existed in 2012 was paid off in 2013
- Handicap accessibility was made possible through the generosity of people giving to the Mustard Seed Fund
- In 2014, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church and the 10th anniversary of the Vienna Sanctuary of Light House
- A movement towards being more involved in the local community through organizations such as FaithLink, Community Resources Inc. and CRU (Campus Crusades for Christ)
- Continued financial support of ministries both through Christ Lutheran Church and the Christ Lutheran Church Women (through the annual Rummage Sale/Bake Sale/Hotdog Sales)
- The generosity of folks at Christ Lutheran Church to give of their time, talents and treasures—especially when there is an immediate need.
- Completion of other building projects including: New organ installation (2016), 2nd floor Parsonage completion (2017), Lighting and camera project (in process for 2020)



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





I am grateful and thankful to witness God at work in the lives of the people of Christ Lutheran Church. I am thankful to God for the impact that this congregation continues to make through the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ with other people.

At the same time in these last eight years, I confess the road has not always been easy for myself as the pastor of this church and for all of you, the people of this congregation. Some of the conflicts that took place in the life of this congregation have left behind wounds that will take time to heal. When individuals and families leave over conflict, it creates a tension between pastor and laypeople; and layperson to layperson. Like many of you, I dislike conflict. I grieve for relationships lost.

For the moments where I have fallen short of the glory of God in the ways I ministered with each of you at Christ Lutheran Church, I ask for your forgiveness. Pastors are human beings. Human beings are fallible. Which means pastors are culpable of making mistakes; because I have my own blind spots that allow my ego to get in the way of ministering with God's people.

On the other hand, I will not apologize for centering us in Jesus Christ and speaking difficult truths. As I often say, I am a blue collar woman from Pittsburgh. You may not always like what I say or agree with how I think; but at least you know that what I say is honest. Because in the end, I firmly believe the Church belongs to Christ Jesus.

The Church is the body of Jesus Christ sent forth by the power of the Holy Spirit to boldly proclaim that we are sinners made free by God's unconditional love and forgiveness; embodied in our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we come to believe and trust in God's promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We trust in the certain hope of the resurrection. We are sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

With the way things are going in our current world, none of us as Christians have the luxury to sit around and waste God's time by looking inward upon ourselves. We do not have the luxury of clinging to the past because it does not bring the life, the Lord desires for us in the present and future.

We are called to look outward beyond ourselves, going into the world with great courage, not knowing where we are going, but that God is guiding us with His Holy Spirit.

I firmly believe God is going to continue to do great things in and through each one of you at Christ Lutheran Church. Yes, there are some challenges such as less people resources. Remember, Jesus had 12 disciples when he started his ministry!

The question remains is that are we truly open to hearing what God is calling us to by listening for the Holy Spirit? Will we get out of the way and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into the present and future—whatever that might hold? Or will we cling to the past with what is familiar?

I cannot answer these questions for our congregation. What I will tell you is that I will continue to pray for each one of you and for this congregation. I am cheering this congregation to have a vibrant ministry in the present and future that is centered in Jesus Christ.

On behalf of our family (Matt, Elizabeth, Thumper and myself), I thank you for your love, prayers and support. For these last eight years, thank you for your partnership in this ministry we are called to do together in Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for this transition in the life of the church together, I give you this blessing from Numbers 6:24-26,:

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;
²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and minds as you go forth serve in God's kingdom. Thanks again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your pastor here at Christ Lutheran Church.

Your faithful servant in Jesus Christ,
Rev. Emilie Theobald-Rowlands, Pastor



OCTOBER 2020

Worship service schedule

October 4th, 11th and 18th

9:30 a.m. (Outdoor Service)

10:45 a.m. (Indoor Service)

October 25th—Reformation Sunday

10:00 a.m. (Indoor Service)

***This will be Pastor Rowlands final service at
Christ Lutheran Church.**

****NOTE: MASKS ARE MANDATORY for all services. Weather
permitting, we will be in the Parsonage backyard.***

If it rains, we will be in the Sanctuary.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

October 3, 2020
10:00 A.M.
(CLC Parking Lot)



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING

*All people present need
to be wearing a MASK.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

*BAGS - in case your pet
or animal leave a gift
behind in the parking lot

Dogs must be on leashes.

Cats must be in carriers.

*** REMEMBER TO STAY
6 FEET APART AT ALL
TIMES.**

**See you at the Blessing
of the Animals Service on
October 3, 2020 @ 10AM!**



FARMERS MARKET

Hope GROWS Community Garden

Brought to you by Community Resources

Saturday, September 26 | 9 AM - 2 PM
2309 Gihon Road Parkersburg, WV

Join us for produce from our Hope Grows garden and Route 18 Farm Market, food trucks, and local vendors selling soaps, lotions, artwork, metal craft, jewelry, honey, flowers and herbs, fresh coffee, and so much more!





THE GOOD SAMARITAN ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER 2020
EVAPORATED MILK



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!

PRAYER LIST– October 2020

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Glen Addis; Wesley Archer; Tara Bannister; Russell Behnke; Richard Dillinger; Jerry John DiNicola; Pam Goots; Ann Hammer; Heather; Mary Hennen; Carrie Hommond; Diana Houllings; Diana Huddleson; Laura Lemley; Jacob Logue; 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.

We give thanks to God for the 8 years of ministry of Rev. Emilie Theobald-Rowlands as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. We pray God's blessings for Pastor Rowlands, Matt, Elizabeth as they move to Ohio. We pray also for our congregation in this time of transition; that the Holy Spirit guide us in this time of discernment for next steps in our ministry together at Christ Lutheran Church.

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!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 3 :Rocky Freeman
October 6: Ron Garrison
October 11: Jenny Knotts
October 15: Tom Williams
October 21: Judi Clampitt
October 27: Loreta Delaney & Mike Knotts



OCTOBER READER SCHEDULE

October 4: Dave Freeman (9:30 a.m.), Lisa Miser (10:45 a.m.)
October 11: Dave Freeman (9:30 a.m.), Larry Armstrong (10:45 a.m.)
October 18: Pastor Rowlands (9:30 a.m.), Al Behnke (10:45 a.m.)
October 25: Matt Rowlands (10:00 a.m.)

Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays

Outdoor Worship 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Worship 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rev. Emilie Theobald-Rowlands, Pastor

Contact Us

Phone: (304)295-9241

Email: clcvienna@gmail.com

Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church

Website: www.christlutheranviennawv.org

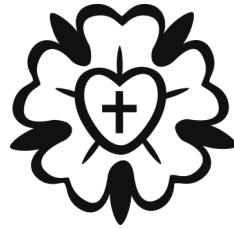
Newsletter Submissions

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."