



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

April 2021

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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

And now, what are we to do?

After Jesus ascended into heaven my guess is the disciples looked at each other and said, "Where do we go from here?" As long as Jesus was alive the disciples had one singular purpose, which was to follow Jesus. Now that Jesus was no longer leading the movement from a human standpoint, it meant things had to change. The followers of Jesus had to discern for themselves and the body of Christ what Jesus meant by "going and making disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19 Imagine all the excitement the disciples must have felt about the possibilities of this movement, especially after experiencing the Holy Spirit work on Pentecost and yet the fear of failure, persecution and the movement becoming irrelevant without Christ being physically present.

Something tells me that when the disciples gathered, they did not just talk about their fears after Christ's death on the cross, but also about how they envision the work of God moving forward. I am sure some thought it would be prudent to stay in Jerusalem and concentrate on developing a strong base before branching out, while others felt that the urgency to share the Gospel meant they had to learn on the go- literally. We know from several of the New Testament letters that the disciples and even church communities did not always agree on the best course of action. What kept the early church together and even to this day is not unity of thought, but instead love for God and the desire to be in fellowship with one another.

Christ Lutheran as a church body has similarly experienced a lot of anxiety over this past year. Not only have your normal lives changed but also the traditional church experiences you value so much been thrown into chaos by the Covid pandemic and on top of that a pastoral transition as well. At times, it has been easy to be united as the body of Christ because when the disease was hitting close to home we had a common concern for ourselves and our neighbors' well-being. However, now as the present covid danger seems to be somewhat mitigated by vaccines and better covid chart numbers we find ourselves in different places on our comfort level in returning to our daily tasks. Meanwhile as the Call Committee begins to meet more regularly the hope for a new pastor on the horizon will increase.

Christ Lutheran is truly blessed to have people with such varied backgrounds that bring about a vast array of wisdom. Some of your sisters and brothers see this as a great time to boldly reach out to the community and gather new people into our fellowship while others still feel the church should be more methodical and cautious in its approach to gathering. Both of these perspectives are valid and faithful. Your church council and other committees and individual volunteers are trying to do their best to prayerfully lead this congregation during this peculiar time. I pray that during this time you may strive together to seek what God would have you do at this present moment and not be overly anxious.

What I ask from you is that you might continue to keep Christ Lutheran and its leaders in prayer and that you continue to be understanding of the challenges and choices that Christ Lutheran must make as a worshiping body of Christ just as you have been doing for the past year. Though we might not always agree wholeheartedly with the process, let us remind ourselves we are united in the common goal of striving to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

May God Bless you this day and always
Pastor Ian B. Reid

April Schedule

April 2, 2021 – Good Friday
Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary
Sanctuary is also open from 12pm-3pm for individual
prayer and meditation

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday
Holy Communion Service with Bishop Dunkin
10am in the Sanctuary

April 11, 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word
10am in the Sanctuary

April 18, 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word
10am in the Sanctuary

April 25, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter
11am – Annual Congregational Meeting
Holy Communion Service with Pastor Reid
1pm in the Sanctuary



Birthdays

April 9 – Melissa Bannister
April 9 – All Behnke
April 12 – Fran Williams
April 14 – Kristopher Welch
April 21 – Terry Wilson
April 30 – George Volker

Anniversaries

April 7 – Avery & Erin Phillips
April 18 – Ron & Judi Clampitt

Good Samaritan Center
Item of the Month
April 2021



Due to Covid-19, the Good Samaritan Center is in need of additional donations. This includes any non-perishable items like peanut butter, pasta, baking mix, and other canned good items. Thank you.

For Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Ian Reid at First Lutheran Church. He is reachable on his cell phone at 304-966-6431. He is serving as Christ Lutheran's interim pastor and is available for any spiritual needs you might have. We are very thankful to Pastor Reid for his service to CLC.

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Russell Behnke; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Pam Goots; Heather; Mary Hennen; Laura Lemley; Larry Maxwell; Jim McGuire; Bob McElroy; Rob Miser; Gary Miller; Gean Secreto; April Sowards, Mildred Stanley; Caren Thomas; 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.

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Church Web Page:

<https://christlutheranviennawv.org/>

Church Facebook Page:

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