



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

July 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
World!

We Belong To God

How do you deal with your critics?

We've all got them—family, friends, co-workers, bosses, customers, next-door neighbors, internet strangers. Life with other humans inevitably involves conflict, debate and even division.

In our lectionary readings this June and July, we learn of Paul's work in Corinth and those who opposed it. In his second letter to the Corinthian church, Paul offers a fierce defense of his ministry among them. Men whom Paul sarcastically calls "super-apostles" (2 Corinthians 11:5, 12:11) have called into question his ministry, his missed visit, his request for financial support for other Christian communities and even his teachings.

What's an evangelist to do? A preacher challenged on his authority might try many options for converting his "fellow workers" back to his side: sophisticated philosophy, an appeal to relationship and history, even a stern warning. While Paul fiercely defends his ministry, his theme throughout the letter isn't his competence in debate but the radical idea of **power revealed in weakness**. He focuses not on his skill as a minister but on his and his fellow preachers' suffering as they've worked for the gospel. Paul says their praise comes from "afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger" (6:4-5).

When our Christian character is challenged, we might want to point to our qualifications (and Paul certainly does that too). Nevertheless, at his best, Paul remembers who the gospel is about and pulls his authority from Jesus.

Building up the church isn't about us—how much we give, how hard we work, how long we've been here. It's about the promise of new creation. In Jesus,

our successes are less important than the joy of knowing our past mistakes are forgiven. In Jesus, our personal skills and spiritual résumé are nothing compared to our reconciliation with God.

So, how do you deal with your critics? Well, this summer's readings from 2 Corinthians present one option: stay grounded in who you are as a beloved child of God and who God is as your holy parent.

Paul doesn't accept an invitation to a debate. He tells his story, including the suffering and pain, because, even though not every chapter is finished, he already knows the ending: "an eternal weight of glory, beyond all measure." Paul refuses to let his suffering or his critics suggest that his work has been in vain. He knows to whom he belongs: not to his past, his mistakes or his detractors but to God.

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)

By Emmy Kegler
For Living Lutheran
June 21, 2021

Pastoral Search Update – Important Dates to Know

A candidate for pastor will be visiting mid-July. He will be preaching on **Sunday, July 11th at 9:30am** (please take note of the time change). After the service and his departure, the congregation will meet to vote on offering a call.

Further, on **Saturday, July 10 at noon** there will be an informal lunch provided by the church held in the fellowship hall. This is to provide an opportunity for congregants to meet and greet the candidate and his spouse. Please make every effort to attend to allow for more informed voting on Sunday.

Please mark your calendar for these very important dates.

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries met for lunch at Mary B's restaurant on Thursday, June 17, 2021. We hit a few snafus as they did not have the time we were coming on our reservation, but they got us in pretty quickly even though they had a full house. We also had to sit at two back-to-back booths but everyone was a good sport and made the most of the situation and everyone kept the lively conversations going! If you've never eaten there, be warned that the portions are large (and delicious). I noticed several to-go boxes as we left but several of those had a piece of pie in them.

Those attending were: Judi and Ron Clampitt, Rocky Freeman, Fran and Tom Williams, Larry Armstrong, Jenny and Mike Knotts, and Delores and Jerry Steege.

Our next meeting will be at noon on Thursday, July 15, at the Fly Away Restaurant at Wood County Airport. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex or please tell **Kay Rowan** as she will be making the reservation. Hope to see several friendly faces!



Birthdays

July 1 – Gary Miller
July 21 – Kinsley Wagoner

Anniversaries

July 24 – Will & Laura Rogers

Good Samaritan Center Item of the Month



Pudding Mix

July Schedule

July 4th & 18th
10am Service in the Sanctuary

July 11th
9:30am Communion Service in the Sanctuary.
Congregational meeting to immediately follow
1pm Service in the Sanctuary

July 25th
1pm Communion Service in the Sanctuary

*The Church Office will be closed the week of July 26th. Kelley Padgett will be reachable by email clcvienna@gmail.com and on her cell phone 225-326-7028.

The Church Yard Sale will be August 6th & 7th

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Russell Behnke; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Ron Goben; Pam Goots; Heather; Mary Hennen; Laura Lemley; family of Jim McGuien; 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.