

The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

March 2021

Table of Contents

Monthly Message.....p 1

Birthdays.....p 2

Good Samaritan.....p 2

Prayer List.....p 2

Worship Schedule.....p 2

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!

Stories of Faith in Action – Chaplain on the Front Line

Ministering to some 700 National Guard and Army troops during New York City's severe COVID-19 outbreak might seem daunting. But not to Anthony Stephens, an ELCA pastor and an Army chaplain.

Since 2016, Stephens has served as senior chaplain to Joint Task Force Empire Shield, part of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs. The Task force that protects the city's bridges, airports, tunnels and train stations from security threats, and has also responded to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Stephens helped troops deal with their anxiety over serving on the front lines and possibly contracting the virus. He also counseled those with family members or friends who were sick, jobless or challenged by other hardships.

"In many ways, there's a feeling of defenselessness against this virus," Stephens said. "We were all exposed before social distancing, and we can't escape that. There's a sense that you can wash your hands just so many times; that we're in God's hands now."

Theological Seminary, Stephens maintains a private counseling practice and, as a pastor, chaplain and counselor, has ministered to people in parishes, prisons, hospitals, counseling centers and the military.

Of all his assignments, the closest to his heart is his current role as a New York Army National Guard chaplain, where he holds the rank of major. "Back in seminary, a Navy recruiter showed up and we talked and prayed," Stephens said. "I knew I'd be called someday to military chaplaincy." **Mission Support funds contribute to ELCA chaplain ministry.**

His diverse ministry experiences have equipped him to address the troops' spiritual needs. "Nothing that I've done in my life has been wasted. My experiences have been used in sermons, to be less judgmental and to give me perspective."

From ELCA Stories of Faith in Action

March Schedule

Sundays in March there will be one service, at 10 am in the Sanctuary. If, due to COVID-19 numbers, Wood County is orange or red, the church service will be prerecorded and sent out by email and posted on Facebook. Please make sure to check your email regularly to stay updated.

March 28th – Communion Sunday

We will be having communion Sunday on March 28th at Christ Lutheran. The service will be at 1pm and Pastor Ian Reid will be presiding. If Wood County is orange or red, communion will be distributed by drive-thru in the church parking lot.

Congregational Meeting – TBD

Church Council has decided to have the Annual Congregational meeting later in the spring when the weather warms up, possibly late April.



Birthdays

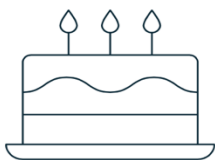
March 5 - Ron Clampitt
March 12 - Rob Miser
March 15 - Mike Behnke
March 15 - Kelli Alleman
March 20 - Barbra Maki
March 21 - Dave Fleming

Prayer List

We keep the following people in our prayers:

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

Good Samaritan Center
Item of the Month
March 2021



Cake Mix

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 their canned good items. Thank you.

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)