



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

August 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!

Pastor Tom's Musings

15 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. **3** You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. **4** Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. **5** "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5) NLT

This is my first newsletter musing to you since you called me to be your pastor on July 11. Liz and I are in the process of saying goodbye to our two congregations here in Pennsylvania and readying ourselves for when we journey to Christ Lutheran. So, I thought in this first letter I would give you the timeline we are working with and also tell you a little about me. So lets begin with the timeline.

We anticipate getting an offer on our house this weekend and so plan on being packed up and loaded by August 27 and our belongings should be arriving on August 30 with unloaders coming on August 31. But before that on August 28 both Liz and I and our three dogs will be coming down and Liz will remain. I will complete my duties in Pa on September 12 and then be on vacation in Vienna through September 30 but will be leading worship on September 19 and September 26. So, you can see that our month of August will be interesting to say the least.

We loved our visit with you in July and look forward to more community building once we get there. I see pot luck dinners in the future, and we look forward to visiting all of you in your homes. We are anxious to hear your stories. Speaking of stories, let me tell you some about me.

I was born August 16, 1950 in York Pa. I graduated for Dallastown Area High School in 1968. Then in 1974 I graduated from York College of Pennsylvania with BS degree in accounting. In 2000 I received his Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, which is now a theological school of Lenoir Rhyne University.

But prior to graduating from seminary I married Liz in 1995, and we brought together a blended family with five children. Since that time, those five children have started families and now we are the proud grandparents of 16 grandchildren.

My first call in ministry was in Clearfield Pa., at St. John Lutheran Church. While there I was involved with the youth, community service, as well as, serving as a volunteer chaplain at the local hospital. In the fall of 2002, I was called to Angel of Joy Lutheran Church in Lufkin Texas. Angel of Joy had just come off mission status shortly before my arrival, so a large portion of my duties were pastoral guidance, both spiritually and administratively. Also during our stay there, we experienced two hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, which affected that congregation. In the summer of 2006, I was called to Flohr's Lutheran Church outside of Gettysburg Pa. My vision there was to journey with them in discovering how God's Word was redefining their purpose and ministry. While there I also served the greater community. I was instrumental in starting a backpack ministry for the local elementary school that both fed and clothed needy children. I was involved in a cooperative midweek youth group called Slice of Faith, as well as cooperative confirmation program of 10 churches with six pastors and 25 youth. He also belonged to local Lions club and served as an associate chaplain at Gettysburg Hospital. After Flohrs, I completed a brief pastorate at Trinity Lutheran in Topton Pa., whose purpose was to help them discern

their future. Presently, until September 30, I am serving St John Center Lutheran Church in East Earl Pa. My primary vision with them has been to guide them from a solo pastorate to a shared ministry as they are living in the latter part of their life cycle.

I do enjoy music of all kinds, play guitar whenever possible. I love the out of doors, taking walks with Liz and just being in the mountains. I am a trout fisherman and a diehard Atlanta Braves fan. I am an avid reader, and have my own website, where I post a daily devotional under www.revtommiedarr.com. My most favorite thing though is spending quality time with the love of his life Liz.

I look forward to many more news musings as we continue to celebrate our life together in Vienna. Have a blessed August and I will definitely see you on the August 29.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries met for lunch on a nice sunny day at the Fly Away Restaurant on Thursday, July 15, 2021. Once again, we had a good time with great food and fellowship. Their portions were large and the waitresses very attentive. And there was no loud music so we could hold conversations. We didn't see any planes fly in but did spot a helicopter!

Those attending were Kay Rowan, Carolyn Stanley, Larry Armstrong, Loreta Delaney, Lion Ward, Fran and Tom Williams, Judi and Ron Clampitt, Jenny and Mike Knotts, and Delores and Jerry Steege. Thanks to Kay Rowan for making the arrangements.

Next month, we will meet on Thursday, August 19, at noon. The restaurant will be DaVinci's in Williamstown. We hope many of you will join us. Sign-up sheets at church or call Delores. (304) 428-2056



Birthdays

- August 3 – Raeven Clampitt
- August 7 – Paul Gochstetter
- August 14 – Sam Miser
- August 19 – Bob Behnke
- August 28 – Richard Delaney

Anniversaries

- August 1 – Nick & Cynthia Read
- August 3 – Dave & Rocky Freeman
- August 6 – Mike & Jenny Knotts
- August 20 – Bill & Peggy Rogers
- August 30 – Richard & Loreta Delaney

We keep the following people in our prayers:

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

August Schedule

August 1, 8, 15, 22

10am Service of the Word in the Sanctuary

August 29

1pm Communion Service in the Sanctuary

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)

**WELCA
Basement Sale**

The Annual WELCA rummage sale is BACK! The basement sale is going to be August 6th and 7th and is looking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help set up, take down, and work the sale. Baked goods for the sale are also needed. Please contact Rocky Freeman, Kay Rowan, Delores Steege, or Lisa Miser if you are able to volunteer in any capacity. Thank you for helping make this a successful activity for our community!

**Good Samaritan Center
Item of the Month**



Jell-O