



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

June 2022

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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!

"The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean. But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27)

It's hard to believe that this June I will have been with you for nine months. The adage is true that time does really fly when you are having fun. Serving and working along with you has been a joy and this is just the beginning. It's been like a page out of St. Paul's letter to the Philippians where he says, "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." All of you have a special place in my heart and I look forward to some very productive years ahead. Likewise, I echo St Paul, when he says, "I am certain that God who began a good work in your will continue to do so."

So I am writing to you in this month of June, with planning happening all around us, as well as planning for the upcoming year. I have used St Paul's letter to the Corinthians as a basis to talk to you about how our moving forward might be envisioned. Paul begins by saying, "The Spirit has given each of you a special way of serving others." That has been what I have experienced here at Christ. We have been blessed with a number of people with varied gifts who have not been shy about using them to help others. Each of us has done what we could to serve, whether that be assisting with worship, taking care of the property, being there for those who need it, as well as connecting in any number of ways within our faith community.

In the upcoming months, we will be continuing to discern what our ministry will look like and be. With the advent of Covid, it will be different that it was before. We will be exploring who we are as Lutheran Christians; as I will be talking to you each week about what it means to be Christian in a Lutheran way. We will also have other opportunities in the fall to join a small group in studying a book called Living Lutheran. During that study we will determine what our values are and rediscover our mission statement. All of which will help us to better discern in what areas of ministry God is calling us to here in Vienna.

In the meantime, there are a couple of gatherings coming up. In June we will have a picnic and game gathering outside at the parsonage as well as our church picnic at Jackson Park in July. We will also begin our outside worship on Pentecost Sunday June 5, 2022. It is so wonderful to gather again in person and really get to know one another once again.

It will end this letter in the same way that Paul does his chapter by saying: yes, God has given us all our individual abilities for service and that we should aspire to do the very best with what God has given us. He then says too, that whatever we do or how well we do it, if it isn't done in love, it isn't worth doing. So let us work together in love and experience the wonderful future God has in store for us.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries met for lunch at the fairly new Las Trancas Mexican Cantina in South Parkersburg on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Hola! It was a very nice setting and the service was friendly and fast.

We had nine people enjoy a delicious lunch. They were Judi and Ron Clampitt, Mike and Jenny Knotts, Tom and Fran Williams, Pastor Tom Darr, and Delores and Jerry Steege.

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, June 9, at DaVinci's Italian Restaurant in Williamstown. Hope you can join us.

Delores Steege (304) 428-2056

June Schedule at a Glance

Sundays:

June 5th (Pentecost Sunday)
9:30 – Outdoor Communion Service
10:45 – Indoor Communion Service

June 12th (Holy Trinity Sunday)
9:30 – Outdoor Communion Service
10:45 – Indoor Communion Service

June 19th
9:30 – Outdoor Service of the Word
10:45 – Indoor Service of the Word

June 26th
9:30 – Outdoor Service of the Word
10:45 – Indoor Service of the Word

Activities:

June 9 – Elderberries at DaVinci's at noon
June 11 – Outdoor Games & BBQ (4-7pm)
June 12 – Special Sanctuary House
Thankofering



Birthdays

June 2 – Helen Read
June 17 – Mysti Cunningham

Anniversaries

June 11 – Andrew and Kelley Padgett
June 16 – Jerry and Delores Steege

Summer Save the Dates

June 11

4-7pm
Outdoor Games & BBQ
Will be held behind the parsonage
(Rainy Day reschedule is June 25)

July 10

Outdoor Service & Lunch
Jackson Park – Wesley Shelter
10am-2pm

August 5&6 (Tentative)

Church Rummage Sale

Special Donations Request

A new roof is being put on the Sanctuary House. The cost of this project will be \$8,200. On Sunday, June 12th, there will be a special thankoffering to help cover some of the cost of this project. Thank you so much for your support for this valuable ministry that Christ Lutheran helps to support.

Church Address:

4513 Grand Central Avenue
Vienna, WV 26105

Church Phone Number:

304-295-9241

Church Web Page:

<https://christlutheranviennawv.org/>

Church Facebook Page:

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

QUIET MOMENTS

Happy Summer Everyone,

No matter what season we are in, whether by calendar or stage in our lives, it is imperative to know we are never alone. Prayer is our greatest gift to aid us in whatever journey we encounter daily. Whether to praise God for an answered prayer; thank Him for His guidance; or even ask for His presence in any situation; all we need is open our minds and hearts and simply talk to Him.

Mother Teresa always used the wonderful gift of prayer throughout her life and in the most dismal situations. The following quote gives me just a glimpse of how prayer was a powerful tool in her life and ministry.

“Joy is prayer- Joy is strength-Joy is love- Joy is a net of love by which you catch souls. She gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. We all long for heaven where God is, but we have it in our power to be in heaven with Him right now- to be happy with Him at this very moment. But being happy with Him now means: loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him for all the twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise.”

And all this is accomplished by connecting with Him daily in prayer. May you find your joy in Him.

Blessings, Liz

A note about the summer schedule:

There will be an outdoor service along with the indoor service this summer. More information will be available soon. There is no Sunday school during the summer.

Kelley Padgett will be on vacation May 25-June 10 and June 18-June 26, but will be available to reach by email (clcvienna@gmail.com) and on her cell phone (225-326-7028) during this time. She will be in the office on Thursdays, but will be doing some work from home while the kids are off for summer vacation. Do not hesitate to reach out to her if you need anything at all. Thank you for your understanding.

Good Samaritan

Item of the Month



Rice

We keep the following people in our prayers:

Tamar Allen; Jeff Amos; Russell Behnke; David Bills; Jerry John DiNicola; Sally Ebeling; Becky Ferguson; Pam Goots; Heather; Michael Knight; Judy Lawson; Lora Lemley; Family of Joel McGuier; Rob Miser; Gary Miller; Sharen Nicholas; Sharon Niday; Gean Secreto; April Sowards; Tim and Lora Swarr; Caren Thomas; Donna Vincent; Brooke Wilson; Terry & Vicki Wilson; Tiffany Wilson; 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); Jon Shorr home from deployment; Conner Allen serving in China; families of all those who serve in the military; 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Steward your *new* community

Like a caterpillar emerging from a cocoon to new life as a butterfly, we can steward our congregations and communities to awaken from Covid-19 to a more excellent reality that brims with faith, hope and love.

Covid-19's hardship, deprivation and grief have inspired an outpouring of kindness, generosity, selflessness, neighborliness and courageous service. Suffering has given us a glimpse of what our communities can and should be, following Christ's two principal commands: love God and love one another.

Our stewardship opportunity and challenge is clear: Can we cultivate this renewed spirit of loving neighborliness as a "new normal"? As our community's central, defining ethos?

The last several months have taught us much:

- **Life is precious.** Everyone counts. No exceptions.
- **We suffer together.** Shared pain creates strong bonds.
- **Serving brings fulfillment.** Many sacrifice joyfully.
- **We need each other.** We can't go it alone.
- **We miss each other.** We require human interaction.
- **Personal contact is sublime.** Nothing beats face-to-face.
- **We are grateful.** Thank God for what we have.
- **We are wiser.** We know what's important.

Covid-19 is receding, though slowly. Much pain lies ahead. Before it's through, the virus will claim more of our friends and loved ones. Many families will suffer economically.

But the virus is also teaching us anew how to be loving neighbors. As Covid-19 abates, we can deepen these lessons and steward our communities to live more closely aligned with God's purposes, to discover life abundant with joy, connection, fulfillment and generosity. With God's help, our congregations and communities can emerge from our Covid-19 cocoon to a more excellent reality, centered in faith, hope and love.

--Rob Blezard