



The Christ Messenger

Christ Lutheran Church
Vienna, West Virginia

May 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!

¹¹ I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.^[a] ¹² Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. ¹³ You will seek me, and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

The evidence of spring and new life is certainly here and present. Many churches during the first Sunday in May celebrate the changing of the seasons with a "Blessing of the Fields service." In that service the fields are blessed in the hopes that God will give them the growth. The world is certainly changing more than just from one season to the next. We all are continually moving out of the belly of the pandemic yet are also confronted with the war in the Ukraine that has worldwide consequences as well as the exorbitant cost of living. And of course, all of that is very much physical selves, which does have spiritual implications as well. We at Christ Lutheran are now beginning to look at how we may better attend to our spiritual needs in building of the Body of Christ here in this place.

On this first Sunday in May, we will have The Rev. Sherri Schaeffer with us to guide us in our dreaming about our future and how we might take those dreams and turn them into reality. I can't say ahead of time what Pastor Sherri will say to us, but I would imagine much of what we do on that first Sunday in May is listen to ourselves, and for what where and how God may be calling us to walk into the future.

We do trust and pray that our God of new beginnings will give us the growth in all areas of our congregational life. We may be approaching summer and those lazy days, but not here. Beginning in May we will be starting a Bible study on Hebrews both inside as well as out, weather permitting. We are looking into starting a ping pong ministry that could meet weekly. We are considering either a mini-Vacation Bible School or possibly the start up of something call Messy Church which is family oriented and would meet one evening per month. With the nicer weather

coming there are so many things we could do together as well as connecting to the community in which we live.

When I became your pastor last October, we did then and do now wonder just what does God have in store for us and what and who is God calling us to be here in Vienna? I suppose that is why I hang on to Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I Know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, "Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I am pretty sure that most of us don't really know what the future is and that in its self can be unnerving. That is why we cling to this Easter confession – in it has some really good words to ponder. "God of life, by the resurrection of your Son, you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to the voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus."

May we be open to God's Holy Spirit and know where He takes us will be good.

God's peace Pastor Tom

ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries met for lunch at noon on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at the North End Tavern (NET).

We were lucky enough to be in a room by ourselves. However, there was one downside that I didn't realize –the long table was a high top. But these senior citizens did ok and no complaining was heard.

Nine people enjoyed eating and visiting. (There was plenty of time to visit!!) Those attending were Kay Rowan, Pastor and Liz Darr, Judi and Ron Clampitt, Carolyn Stanley, Larry Armstrong and Delores and Jerry Steege. Mike Knotts was working so hard that he forgot us until too late.

Our next luncheon will be on Thursday, May 12, at Las Trancas Mexican Restaurant in South Parkersburg. Hope you can join us. Please sign up or call:

Delores Steege (304) 428-2056

May Schedule at a Glance

Sundays:

May 1st

10:00 – Communion Service

11:00 – Potluck

12:00 – Church Planning Meeting

May 8th (Mother's Day)

8:30 & 10:45 – Worship Service

9:30 – Sunday School

May 15th

8:30 & 10:45 – Communion Service

9:30 – Sunday School

May 22nd

8:30 & 10:45 – Worship Service

9:30 – Sunday School

May 29th (Memorial Day Weekend)

8:30 & 10:45 – Worship Service

9:30 – Sunday School

Elderberries – May 12th at noon at Las Trancas Mexican Restaurant in South Parkersburg



Birthdays

May 5 – Erin Phillips

May 7 – Delores Steege

May 10 – Kelley Padgett

Summer Save the Dates

June 11

Outdoor Games & BBQ

Will be held behind the parsonage, time TBD

(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

The Sanctuary of Light House is in need of a new roof. Because the home is owned by Christ Lutheran, the repairs on the Sanctuary House fall to the church. The quote for the new roof is \$8,200. We are asking for financial donations to help with the cost of replacing the roof. If you feel like you are able to provide the church with a financial gift to help with this project, please make a check out to Christ Lutheran Church and in the memo line write "Sanctuary Roof Repair." Thank you so much for your support of this important ministry to our community.

QUIET MOMENTS

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." Ghandi

When I taught 7-12 graders, it was important that I shared pearls of knowledge from various cultures. It was important for me to teach that each person can make a difference and affect change positively.

Whether Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr and numerous others, no matter what your walk of life you can and should make a difference in those lives God has put in your path.

Our country has been at odds with each other for too long. The answer is simple.

Let your faith walk demonstrate God's love to everyone. Let the happiness of knowing whose you are just shine forth in your everyday life. One day at a time-one person at a time.

By sharing your mind, thoughts, and actions we can start to see that peace and consideration will shine again.

Blessings, Liz

Readers & Ushers

10:45

May 1 Melissa Bannister
(One Service) Jerry Steege (Usher)

May 8 Andrew Padgett
Kay Rowan (Usher)

May 15 Lisa Miser
Al Behnke (Usher)

May 22 Don Fosselman
(Reader & Usher)

May 29 Delores Steege
Al Behnke (Usher)

Ushers

8:30

May 9 Knotts

May 15 Vicki Wilson

May 22 Knotts

May 29 Vicki Wilson

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



Cereal

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)

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 McGuiar; 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.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00-12:00

STEWARDSHIP FOR MAY

Stewards of our elders' wisdom

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” –**Exodus 20:12**

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day, God's people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect and value as “elders” their oldest members. It's something we surely can use in 21st century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

--*Rob Blezard*

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.