



# The Watchman



August  
2020

## *Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS*



One catchphrase of 2020 that I'm sick of hearing is "the new normal." The idea is that the coronavirus pandemic has fundamentally changed our society; perhaps temporarily, perhaps permanently, but in either case there is a "new normal" we all have to adapt to. Certainly there are changes we have to come to terms with, but what does "normal" even mean? We're always adapting to new ideas of what is or is not normal.

Humans are, by and large, creatures of habit. Even the most spontaneous among us still need some stability and order -- total chaos is not an environment that humans can thrive in. And the world is always changing. 2020 may, in the long term, go down as a year with more profound changes than usual, but maybe not.

It's also natural for us to yearn for "the good old days" if the old days were actually good, a time when we had it pretty good. But the trajectory of history is heading toward one unchangeable, unknowable moment when God will actually make things truly good, and the

world is going to go through a lot of twists and turns to get there, both personally and societally. We don't find stability and security in maintaining or returning to the ways we've always done things; we find stability and security only in God and His future for us. He wants us to His gifts that do endure and will not change.

"New normals" are always sneaking up on us, whether in the gain or loss of a family member, the coming and going of political leaders, or more dramatic headline events. And the way to cope with them is always the same: not to cling onto worldly things, but onto eternal things. "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord endures forever, and this word is the Gospel that was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:24-25). The things of this world come and go; the "normals" of this world come and go. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8)

I don't know what "normal" is supposed to mean, in a worldly sense. I certainly don't know if we're living in a "new normal" or not. But human life is always subject to the changes and chances of

this world, and there is only one Christ who is the rock that is always same, always the foundation and lodestar, always the true normal and one that does not change for us. While we may face challenges we have not encountered before, our resources remain the same: our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit stand by us and supply us through the Word of God's promise in the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit lends His stabilizing presence to our everyday circumstances as they shift and refocus our thinking and living. Jesus Christ promised to be with us to the end of the age, and He assured His disciples the Holy Spirit would be here and there and everywhere for us. He who was born for us, who died for us, who rose for us comes to be with us and for us amidst all the changes we experience on the roller-coaster of life. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God that created the world and gives it its stability, its order, and its peace. Jesus Christ, who gives a peace no human system or institution, no custom or practice can give, is here for us, at our side, on our side, in every "new normal."

## July Anniversary & Birthdays

L-R: Kevin & Susan Rademacher,  
Anna Marie Purdy, Dave Hamilton,  
Marlene Bontly, Theopal Hahn,  
Melonee Crews

(2019 Picture)



## Elders & Lay Readers

- 2 Bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins (Anna K.)
- 9 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Aletha S.)
- 16 Kevin Rademacher & T.J. Schmelter (Jody H.)
- 23 Jody Heusman & Dave Hamilton (Hanna D.)
- 30 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Bobby T.)



- 6 Kirk & Emma Pellegrin



- 1 Elizabeth Jacobson
- 1 Tara Heusman
- 4 Jenna Hamilton
- 6 Susie Denton
- 12 Kathleen Cox
- 22 Kevin Rademacher
- 23 Jay Torries
- 23 Kimberly (Trehern) Bonetti
- 25 Rita Shepherd



**Bible Treasure Hunt:** Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

✓ How many times does the Bible mention the word "snow?" Is it 24 times, five times, never or 12 times? Answer:

# Mary Martha News

**Mary Martha and will not be meeting in August. We hope to be back in September. Remember to continue to collect your Mites.**

## Women's Witness and Mercy Asia

2019-2021 Mission Grant 12 — \$100,000



The pure joy of children at Concordia Middle School Taiwan

Asia is a harvest field ripe for the gospel. Women in Mission realize that our grants to missionaries in the field bring God's Word to a dying world. Asia is predominately secular with Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and other false religions. Throughout Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau and Southeast Asia, ten women do various mission works such as teaching, acts of mercy and witnessing the gospel. Some have

husbands and families working alongside of them while others work with a team or alone. One missionary teaches 242 students about Jesus in Taiwan while another has served for 10 years planting seeds of mercy and witnessing in Southeast Asia. Whether teaching English as a Second Language in Thailand or building relationships to open doors for sharing the gospel, each woman in the mission field helps in the growth God's Kingdom. This grant will help support these women in their unique mission setting in Asia.

### August Scripture Readings

Aug. 2 (Proper 13)	Is. 55:1-5	Psalms 136:1-9 (23-26)	Rom. 9:1-5 (6-13)	Matt. 14:13-21
Aug. 9 (Proper 14)	Job 38:4-18	Psalms 18:1-9 (7-16)	Rom. 10:5-17	Matt. 14:22-33
Aug. 16 (Proper 15)	Is. 56:1, 6-8	Psalms 67	Rom. 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32	Matt. 15:21-28
Aug. 23 (Proper 16)	Is. 51:1-6	Psalms 138	Rom. 11:33-12:8	Matt. 16:13-20
Aug. 30 (Proper 17)	Jer. 15:15-21	Psalms 26	Rom. 12:9-21	Matt. 16:21-28



Church Council Meeting 7/20/2020

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Reading of previous meeting minutes was waived.

Pastor's Report: See attached.

Pastor is continuing live socially-distanced services. Members are well spread out across the sanctuary and wear masks. He is also taping a service that can be viewed online. If you are not able to attend services but wish to receive communion, contact Pastor to arrange a private communion.

Due to the current situation, the council opted to cancel summertime Vacation Bible School. We may schedule an event in the fall.

President's Report: Shawn Robbins: Reminder to maintain social distancing and mask wearing in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. If you do not feel well, even slightly under the weather, please stay home. The service is also available in the Fellowship Hall through the speaker system, if you wish to listen there.

Vice President Report: Kevin Rademacher: thank you Pastor for the great job during this COVID-19 situation.

Elder: Jody Heusman: Let the elders know if you have questions or concerns or need assistance.

Financial Secretary Carl Erichsen

Total Deposits June: \$7007

July so far: \$7489

YTD: \$ 66,858.47

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson: checking account balance is \$2746.16 with bills paid through July. CEF totals \$73,051.87

Mary Martha will begin meeting again in August. Janet will check on the situation to determine if MM will meet.

Youth: Dave Griffin -- No report.

Evangelism: We had a visitor yesterday from Lucedale.

Social Ministry: Melonee Crews sent birthday cards to retirees and also called to check on members. No home visits at this time.

Stewardship: Jay Torries-- Continue to give as you are able.

Trustees--Doors on south side of Memorial Hall need to be replaced. Can we fix the hole in the pavement that is under the covered drive through?

Old business—none

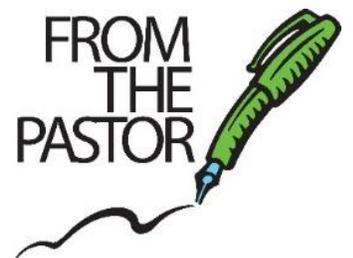
New business—Jody suggested giving a complete bulletin to new members and visitors to assist in following the service. Janet will make these for the service each week.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer  
Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

## **Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council July 2020**

### Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none.
- No changes with our Sunday morning plans at the moment. We've averaged 30-35 in the sanctuary each week, still with the alternatepew distancing and everyone wearing masks.If you are having any symptoms, even mild, please stay home! Otherwise we continue to gather for worship.



- We have resumed Sunday morning Bible class, and have just begun watching episodes of the new TV show The Chosen based on the Gospels. I am also still making a Bible study video to post online each week.
- As far as post-worship fellowship, there's a pot of coffee in case anyone wants to come in, but not many people have come over so far.

### Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services area good outreach tool! I encourage everyone to share these on your own pages, as some of you already have. The services stay available after the initial premiere, so anyone can go back and watch older ones too.

### Travel

- Vacation time to date for 2020: 7 days used out of 24 total (0 Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel in July: I took a few days off while we were moving.
- Planned travel in August: none.

### Other Activities, General Information

- As a reminder, we are now able to accept offerings/donations online; they are processed via PayPal and may be made through one's individual PayPal account or with credit/debit card information. The link is at the bottom of the home page of our website <https://www.christlutheranchurchms.org>

## **A Thought about Stewardship**

### **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.



Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



## Website Redesign Is Complete!

The redesigned Southern District website is now available:

<http://www.southernlcms.org/>

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

(Romans 1:16)



**Pastor Derek & Eve Waffel**  
**4532 Shadow Wood Circle**  
**Pascagoula, MS 39581**

## Assisting Church Workers Impacted by the Pandemic Soldiers of the Cross



Since 2004, the Soldiers of the Cross program has delivered emergency financial support and pastoral care to rostered professional church workers in crisis. In early April, as churches and schools across the country were shutting down to help stem the spread of the coronavirus, the program's scope was expanded. Now any employee of an LCMS church, school, Recognized Service Organization or institution can request a one-time Soldiers grant through their district.

Initially, \$2.5 million was earmarked for this COVID-19 response — \$1 million from Lutheran Church Extension Fund and \$1.5 million from the LCMS, pulled from contributions previously given for Soldiers of the Cross, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and LCMS Disaster Response.

The LCMS also is encouraging ongoing donations to help even more workers. Through the end of May, God's people have already responded to that call by providing \$400,000 in additional funding for more grants, with another \$438,570 to coordinate "after care" services likely to be needed by exhausted LCMS clergy when the pandemic is over.

"In this tumultuous time that we're going through as a country, we're also seeing that affecting our church workers in very tangible, financial ways," said the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, director of LCMS Disaster Response, who is currently overseeing the grant program. "This is a way that we can help our church workers who are going through a financial hardship."

Dollars for the Soldiers Amplified grants can come from donations directed to LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Some LCMS districts also are appealing for donations with the aim of underwriting at least 20 percent of each Soldiers Amplified grant given to workers in crisis.

Goodbye July...   
 ALOHA August!

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	10	11	12	13	14	15 Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
16 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Elders 11:00	17 Council 6:00	18	19	20	21	22
23 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00				Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  24 times several verses that mention snow are Psalm 51:7, Proverbs 31:21, Isaiah 1:18		

