



The Watchman



July
2019

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



During these past couple of months, I've noticed one thing that drives so much of the anxiety and fear that people have: that is the question, "What do we do now?" Do we stay home, or not? Do we wear a mask, or not? What's the right thing to do? What *can* we do? The answer we really don't like to hear is "nothing," when there's nothing we can really do. We put a great deal of weight in our own ability to cope with things and our own plans, but those can only take us so far; sometimes, they can't take us very far at all. The rest of this from a devotion written by Dr. Dale Meyer, former Lutheran Hour speaker and recently retired president of Concordia Seminary:

"One phrase I don't hear very often from church people is, "Lord willing." The pandemic is a terrible reality check. We're not in control of our lives as much as we may have thought we were. There are plenty of

stories about people who ignored physical distancing and became infected with COVID-19. Church people too. Imagining themselves in control, they were not. "And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21).

"The rich man was confident he could make his plans for the future come true, but the pandemic has us all looking ahead with doubt. When will there be a vaccine? When can we all get tested so we know whether

we have the coronavirus or not? What will the new normal look like? For every worried question we have about our future, there are many prognosticators. Some are experts trained in their fields; others are people not so qualified but confident filling the media with their opinions. Whatever, most of us are realizing we're not in God-like control of the future.

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:13-15). Church people do a lot of talking about witnessing to our faith. Using "Lord willing" would be a good way to open up a conversation with someone who doesn't really know the God who comes to us mortals in Jesus."

**June Anniversary
& Birthdays
(From June 2019)**

Laurie Millett & Kolton Pellegrin



Elders & Lay Readers

- 7 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Tim K.)
- 14 T.J. Schmelter & Kevin Rademacher (Susan R.)
- 21 Bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins (Cathy G.)
- 28 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Lin J.)



- 2 Ted & Julia Schmelter
- 6 Jerold & Rita Shepherd
- 7 Lin & Carol Jacobson
- 9 Jeff & Sandy Welty
- 18 Nick & Alyssa Purdy
- 19 Lionel & Ruby Dale
- 26 Neil & Gail Hartwig



- 1 Ted Schmelter
- 3 Julia Schmelter
- 7 Tanya Hamilton
- 10 Gloria Schmelter
- 17 Kevin Rosamond
- 17 Bryan Linn
- 22 Michelle Southern
- 23 Neil Hartwig
- 24 Michael Southern
- 26 Bente Paul
- 28 Aletha Schollian
- 29 Tristen Schmelter
- 30 Kyndel Torries



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

What instrument did David play? Bonus question: Name the king he played it for.

Brondum Krebs Epilogue

What a way to end a 27 month service with the Peace Corps! Over the months in Zambia, I had worked with the people of my village, Chibote, to establish a Co-op. Once established, I assisted the locals in applying for an 'Ambassador's Grant' with which we would purchase a solar powered hammermill, a/k/a grist mill. Much corn is grown in the area but previously had to be sold at very low rates, shipped away from the village and then repurchased as corn meal. Corn meal is a huge, everyday staple in rural Zambia. One of the qualifications for the Grant was to provide a building in which the mill would be installed. The villagers built such a building and after much paperwork back and forth were awarded the Grant. It was a tremendous accomplishment for Chibote and would positively affect the lives of over 250 people in the area with other positive benefits to follow. After my return home, my friends from Chibote sent me pictures of the completed project. They are very proud of their accomplishment and I am very pleased to have been involved in the process. So, congratulations Chibote! I am very proud of you all! Grist-on!!



Mary Martha News

We will not be meeting in June or July. We hope to meet again in August.
Reminder to continue to collect your Mites!



The seminary student, Jonathon Rusche, that we have supported last year has graduated. He has been called to Trinity Lutheran Church in Toledo, OH.

June Mites

Ministry in Motion at Trinity in Mobile, AL

2019-2021 Mission Grant 10 — \$58,000



Teacher Jonathan Clausell reads to his class. LCMS photo

Trinity Lutheran School, modeled after the ministry of Rosa J. Young, has remained a stronghold of Christ centered education in a community dealing with inter-generational poverty and the challenges of urban living. Today Trinity serves 200 students from infants through fifth grade, and reaches another 45 students daily from four public schools through its afterschool program and Good News Bible Club. Daily prayer, chapel, and devotions help children, many from unchurched homes, develop spiritually in knowing God loves them. Grant funds are needed to purchase a handicapped accessible church bus for school children, elders, neighbors, and church members to participate in church and school ministries.

June Scripture Readings

June 7	The Holy Trinity	Gen. 1:1—2:4a	Psalms 8	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	Matt. 28:16–20
June 14 (Proper 6)	Second S. a. Pentecost	Ex. 19:2–8	Psalms 100	Rom. 5:6–15	Matt. 9:35—10:8 (9–20)
June 21 (Proper 7)	Third S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 20:7–13	Psalms 91:1–10 (11–16)	Rom. 6:12–23	Matt. 10:5a, 21–33
June 28 (Proper 8)	Fourth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 28:5–9	Psalms 119:153–160	Rom. 7:1–13	Matt. 10:34–42



Minutes 5/18/2019

Church Council Meeting

Shawn called the meeting to order

Pastor opened w prayer

The reading of the previous meeting minutes waived

Pastor’s Report see Pastor’s report attached. Will continue to offer the prerecorded Sunday Matins Service, and the regular Sunday service in the Sanctuary. The radio transmission is also available if you wish to remain in your car for the drive through service in the parking lot for a few more weeks.

President—Shawn: Following the governor’s guidance on social distancing and Safer at Home guidelines.

Vice President- No comments

Trustees—no report

Financial – Carl: Deposits for April \$11,836.32

YTD: \$55,531.14

May contributions so far \$6880.32

Treasurer: 815.05 in checking, bills are current.

Motion made and passed to authorize Lin to access other funds if needed to meet this month’s obligations.

Mary Martha: Mary Martha is off for the summer. Return in August.

Youth-Dave Griffin – No report

Education-Educational packets were sent to Sunday School participants

Social Ministry-sending out cards to retirees and calling homebound members

Stewardship- Jay: Continue to give if possible

New Business- Shawn: MGCCC is offering a free Spanish class

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council May 2019



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Jensen Heusman was baptized Sunday, April 26. Robert Socha has transferred membership here.
- We've had success with the drive-in services which began with Easter on April 12, with 25- 35 people attending each week.
- Beginning May 17, we opened the sanctuary for worship again. We had 17 people attending inside, with another 7 outside listening to the radio.
 - o For at least the next two weeks (May 24 and 31), we will continue to:
 - A) Maintain distancing in the sanctuary, with alternate pews blocked off, masks worn, etc.
 - B) Provide the option to listen to the service from your vehicle via the radio.
 - C) Provide an online video service on Facebook and YouTube. o After that, we will re-evaluate in light of current events, government recommendations, etc.
- There have been some positive comments about a weekly online Bible study video covering one of the previous Sunday's reading. I will continue that, possibly making it a long-term feature even after the present emergency subsides.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services may have been/could be a 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: 3 days used out of 24 total (0 Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel in May: none.
- Planned travel in June: none.

Other Activities, General Information

- I will be making a presentation at Concordia Seminary's annual Theological Symposium, September 22 and 23 of this year.
- 5 th Annual Lutheran Night at the Biloxi Shuckers was planned for Friday, May 8. As of right now, I have no idea when this may happen this year, if at all.
- 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>
- Eve and I are in the process of buying a house in Pascagoula, and we anticipate closing and moving some time during June.



A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

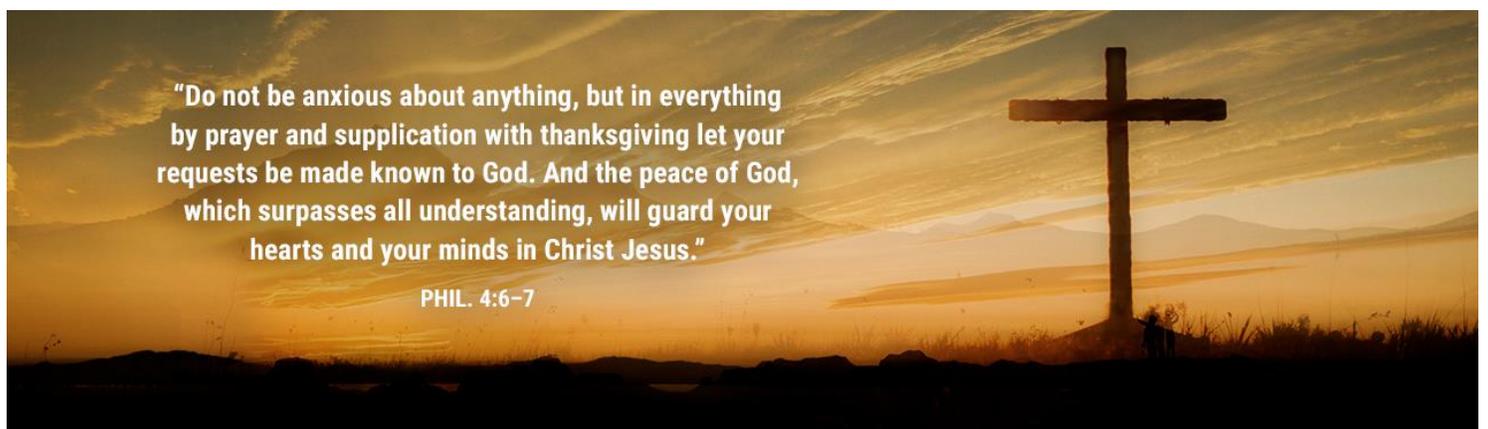
In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Calendar subject to change due to CDC recommendations						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Elders 11:00 	Council 6:00					
28	29	30				
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  Harp/lyrics King Saul; 1 Samuel 16:14- 23



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PHIL. 4:6-7