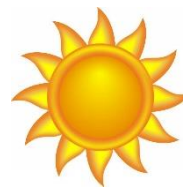




# The Watchman



June  
2021

**Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS**



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

(Psalm 133:1). It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians... This is the Scripture’s praise of life together under the Word. But now we can rightly interpret the words ‘in unity’ and say, ‘for brethren to dwell together *through Christ*.’ For Jesus Christ alone is our unity. ‘He is our peace.’ Through him alone do we have access to one another, joy in one another, and fellowship with one another.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

There is no such thing as being a solitary Christian. All of us who have faith are, by definition, united together at least in a spiritual sense: there are many members, but there is only one Body of Christ, as the Bible says. And many times in Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments, it is a wonderful and joyful blessing from God when His people are

together. I feel I am not alone in reflecting on the last year and more, and thinking that “virtual church” or interaction on a screen is just not the same. It’s better than nothing when circumstances demand, but it’s hardly ideal.

We were created by God as we are, body and soul; we’re not disembodied thoughts or spirits that can have community over wires and airwaves and virtual spaces in the same way that we gather together, to hear the tone of a friend’s voice, to see a smile. God Himself entered into this in the Incarnation, coming not to pluck us out of the world but to redeem the world. And so it was encouraging and heartwarming to again see many of our church family gathering in the fellowship hall after worship the past couple of weeks. One item on the congregational calendar for this month is a cookout on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and I hope it will be another opportunity for people to ease back into this fellowship after last year’s circumstances guided us to temporarily put them on hold.

Bonhoeffer’s short book *Life Together* is devoted to exactly what the title suggests: the way that the Christian life is always “life together” with fellow believers, and how this community is unlike any other in the world because it is based on spiritual unity in Christ. We see this in worship, of course, but we see it also in sharing coffee and doughnuts in Memorial Hall, playing on the playground, canoeing on a river, or bringing a meal to someone in need. I pray that you will both rejoice in the blessing of community and Christian life that this congregation has, and that you will continue to be a part of it and add to our joy as we live together in faith, hope, and love.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## June Anniversary

### & Birthdays (From June 2019)

Laurie Millett & Kolton Pellegrin



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## Elders & Lay Readers

- 6 Shawn Robbins (Tim K.)
- 13 Kevin Rademacher (Susan R.)
- 20 Bobby Trehern (Cathy G.)
- 27 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



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

Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?

2019-2021 Biennium

**Mission Goal:**  
**\$2,100,000**

*Praise God  
from Whom all  
blessings flow*

**\$2,204,724.55**



2019-2021  
LWML Mission Goal

Total Mites Received  
**\$2,204,724.55**

*And a poor widow  
came and put in two  
small copper coins  
[mites], which make a  
penny (Mark 12:42).*

## Mary Martha News

We will not be meeting in June or July. See you in August.  
Reminder to continue to collect your Mites!



### National Mite Report

The 2019–2021 fiscal period is April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021.

### Mite Offerings Received

Amounts as of March 31, 2021

**Mission Goal for 2019–2021 Biennium: \$2,100,000.00**

**Amount Received: \$ 2,204,724.55**

### Mite Box Devotion

#### PRAYER

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior, for calling us to be Your children, for letting us know about Your love. Please give us the compassion and courage we need to share Your love in word and deed with those whose lives touch ours.

With these gifts we share Your love with those we cannot reach in person. Bless the workers who serve in our behalf. You've given us so much. These are just tokens of our blessings.

**BIBLE READING** "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand" (1 Chronicles 29:14 NIV).

#### HYMN

We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

And we believe Thy Word,  
Though dim our faith may be;  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
We do it unto Thee.

LH 441/LW 405/LSB 781

# June Scripture Readings

	June 6 (Prop. 5)	Second S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 3:8–15	Ps. 130	2 Cor. 4:13—5:1	Mark 3:20–35
	June 13 (Prop. 6)	Third S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 17:22–24	Psalms 1	2 Cor. 5:1–10 (11–17)	Mark 4:26–34
	June 20 (Prop. 7)	Fourth S. a. Pentecost	Job 38:1–11	Psalms 124	2 Cor. 6:1–13	Mark 4:35–41
	June 27 (Prop. 8)	Fifth S. a. Pentecost	Lam. 3:22–33	Psalms 30	2 Cor. 8:1–9, 13–15	Mark 5:21–43



## Minutes 5/17/2021

### Church Council Meeting

Shawn called the meeting to order.

Pastor opened w prayer.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes was waived.

Pastor's Report:

- Tested the new Concordia Organist system yesterday during Sunday worship. The hymns were recorded, and Rita played the liturgy music. So far the comments have been positive. Need volunteers to run the music system during worship.
- Now that the CDC has relaxed the mask guidance, and many members have been vaccinated, face masks are optional. Reminder: If you feel ill or may have been exposed to COVID, please stay home.
- Proposed cookout Sunday June 13: Bring your own meat to grill, church will provide baked potatoes, baked beans and salad. A sign up sheet for attendance and desserts will be posted in Memorial Hall.
- Pastor will attend a retreat May 24-26<sup>th</sup>.

President: Shawn Robbins

- Cleaning—a person has been hired to clean the church twice a month, beginning in June. We will be taking donations to cover the cleaning service
- Nursery—we are hoping to have a nursery attendant for children 4 y/o and under, will ask for volunteers. We will discuss at the congregational meeting.
- We will also discussed the proposed endowment fund at the congregational meeting

VP-Kevin Rademacher

- Please sign up to be an ushers and/or greeter : now is a good time to reconnect with congregation members
- The sign up sheet for flowers is in Memorial Hall, write “flowers” on your check. \$50 will provide two weeks of flowers for the altar
- Working on Safety Plan

Elders-Jody Heusman

- Working on a proposal for a memorial garden
- Would any adults like to serve as acolyte or crucifer? We are looking for volunteers
- Nursery: Jody has a list of volunteers and will put together a schedule

Trustees-Jerold Shepard:

- South doors for Fellowship Hall have been replaced.
- The back door to the church was repainted.
- Installed an LED light on the carport on the driveway.



- Planning to repair the steeple, and also need to repair breezeway fascia.
- Need to replace the coke fridge in the kitchen. The Council approved for Jerold to purchase a new refrigerator.

Financial Secretary-Carl Erichsen:

- April total: \$9781.47
- May so far: \$6195
- YTD contributions: \$49,727.67

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson:

- \$6330.12 checking balance, all bills are current.
- CEF fund \$43,390.21
- CD is approx. \$27k

Evangelism-Rita Shepherd: no report

Mary Martha-Kyndel Torries:

- Mary Martha provided a baptism reception for Laura Dunlap
- Mary Martha provided a graduation reception for Preston Robbins
- Raised over \$500 at the Spaghetti dinner take out last month.
- Mary Martha is on break for the summer
- Sending our support to the National Convention in Lexington. We are not sending delegates this year.

Youth: Dave Griffin: We have scheduled a June cookout since there was no Mardi Gras cookout

Education-Donna Krebs:

- We need to divide the children into two classes and need additional teachers
- We will discuss VBS options at congregational meeting T,W, T of one week, or three Wednesdays in a row
- Donna will lead the Children's service during worship. Parents will decide if they wish their children to attend.

Social Ministry Team: Melonee Crews —the team sent birthday cards to retirees, made calls to homebound, and a get well card to Bob Andrews

Stewardship Jay Torries—no report

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

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



### Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Bud and Susan Villarreal want to join the church. They moved to Ocean Springs about a year ago, and have been watching the online services since then.
- Organ: we have the Concordia Organist package ready to go, and we are using it for the hymns of May 16 and 23 while Rita plays the liturgy. What we need now are volunteers to be trained on the system and ready to help out during the service!
- In light of new CDC guidance, may we make masks entirely optional and essentially return to normal church activities?
  - Summer fellowship event: potluck or cookout, baseball game, other ideas?
- Thinking ahead: plans for a VBS this year?

### 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.

### Circuit, District, and Synod

- I am planning to attend a pastors' retreat near Wichita, KS on May 24-26. This retreat is hosted by an LCMS organization called Doxology; there is no cost to the congregation.

### Travel

- Vacation time for 2021: 10days out of 21 total (2Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel for May: attending the pastors' retreat as mentioned above, May 24-26.
- Planned travel for June: none.

### Other Activities, General Information

- As a reminder, we are able to accept offerings/donations online through PayPal or by credit/debit card. The link is at the bottom of the home page of our website.
- Cleaning the church: Hanna Dunlap had volunteered, but with her newborn baby, we need other volunteers or another solution.

## **Hurricane Preparedness**

We are now in hurricane season. The Southern District takes this subject seriously and prays for the wellbeing of all those along the path of any storm. If a mandatory evacuation order is given for your area, PLEASE heed it. Once you have arrived at your safe location, please take a few minutes to check in with the Southern District so that we know you are safe and your evacuation information may be recorded. Church workers MUST report. In the event of an evacuation, please use the phone number (listed below) to report the requested information.

Professional Church Workers & Congregational Members:

Phone Line: (985) 635-4382

Please provide:

- Your Name
- Your Congregation and Congregation City
- City and State You Have Evacuated To



# A Thought about Stewardship

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



“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.





## CONGREGATIONAL COOKOUT

We are planning a cookout after worship on Sunday, June 13. It will be BYOM, Bring Your Own Meat. We will have the grill fired up and ready to go, and the church will provide salad, baked potatoes, and baked beans. In addition to your meat, please consider bringing a dessert or any additional side dishes. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to help us plan for the right number of people.



## Christian Education

After years of service to the Church as the chief (and only) Sunday School teacher of our children, Cathy Groff will be retiring as the sole and only, full time 'keeper of the kids' during the Sunday School hour (9:00 to 9:45) each Sunday. We are grateful to the Lord that our congregation has an increasing number of children. As the numbers grow, we find ourselves in need of establishing two Sunday School classes! That means, however, we need teachers! If you are interested in working with the youth of Christ Lutheran, please talk with Donna Krebs. Cathy will be our guiding light as we pursue our path

going forward. The number of volunteers will determine the schedule of rotation and as we gather volunteers, there will be organizational meetings to help all of us get 'up to speed'. We hope to implement the new schedule in the Fall with Rally Day. Please let me know if you might be interested in helping with this important part of Christian growth at Christ Lutheran. **AND REMEMBER:** you don't have to have young children to be a Sunday School teacher. You only have to love them!!

Peace be with you!

Donna



## CHURCH CLEANING

A person has been hired to clean the church twice a month, beginning in June. We will be taking donations to cover the cleaning service.





# JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 <b>Church Cookout</b>						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Elders 11:00 	Council 6:00					
27	28	29	30			
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  Simeon Luke 2:25-35

