



The Watchman May 2023

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



This month ends with a holiday, Memorial Day. It's a three-day weekend and a time for a little R&R with your family and friends; it also marks the beginning of the summer holidays for many people, the time when pools, water parks, and other hot-weather activities begin. But the original purpose is, of course, remembering those who died in military service.

It's easy to make a connection with our Christian faith there: Jesus commends the love of those who are willing to lay down their lives for the benefit and protection of others. We remember, first and foremost, that Jesus laid down his life for our eternal salvation, and we can see an echo of that in self-sacrificial service in this life. But it should also remind us not only of those who served America, but those who served Christ – the apostle Paul talks on multiple occasions about serving the Church as a parallel to the military, as in Philippians 2:25 he calls another missionary “fellow worker and fellow soldier,” but especially in 2 Timothy 2: “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets

entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.”

We have many Memorial Days in the Church, the days marked to commemorate the saints who have gone before us and especially those who have died as martyrs. There were many in the early years of the Church, but there are still martyrs today as well. An ancient Christian, Tertullian, wrote in 197 AD “The more often we are mown down by you [the pagan Roman authorities], the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.” Nothing testifies to Christ like those who imitate him, suffering and dying in faith. In 2015, there were twenty-one men martyred by ISIS in Libya; twenty were Egyptian Coptic Christians, but the twenty-first was from Ghana and according to some reports, he was not previously a Christian. However, he was given an opportunity to deny Christ and live, but when he saw the immense faith that the others showed, he said “Their God is my God.”

Of course, I do not know what the future holds for any of us, but from the words of the apostles themselves in the New Testament, we know that suffering and martyrdom because of our faith is a great honor in the Kingdom of God. What we memorialize helps show what we value; we value the nation in which we live, and we remember those who died serving it; we value our faith and our Lord, and we remember those who died serving Him. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus – in the worldview the New Testament presents us, persecution and martyrdom are obvious, if not inescapable; simply a fact of life for Christians. “Martyr” literally means “witness” and we memorialize those whose faithful witness to Christ led them to imitate his own innocent death. So, as we enjoy our American Memorial Day later this month, let us not forget our Church's many Memorial Days as well, and that we are all in the service of the Kingdom of God. Share in suffering, and even in martyrdom if given that privilege, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

April Anniversary & Birthdays

Preston Robbins, Derek Waffel,
Jerold Shepherd, Laura Dunlap &
Luke Waffel



- 7 Kevin Rademacher & Dave Griffin (John T.)
- 14 Roger Cox & Jay Torries (Rita S.)
- 21 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Hanna D.)
- 28 Dave Griffin & Kevin Rademacher (Elder)



- 7 Susan Rademacher
- 14 Crystal Robbins
- 21 Aletha Schollian
- 28 Debbie Schulte



- 3 Courtney Davis
- 14 Lindsey Hartwig
- 20 Laura Millette
- 23 Kolton Pellegrin
- 23 Tyler Schollian
- 24 Terry Pike
- 27 Hayli Sothern
- 31 Angie Howard

Happy Anniversary



Rita Shepherd

- 9 Doug & Donnette Taylor
- 16 David Lee & Tina Hamilton
- 31 Patrick & Courtney Davis
- 31 John & Aletha Schollian

May Scripture Readings

	May 7	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2–10	John 14:1–14
	May 14	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 17:16–31	Psalm 66:8–20	1 Peter 3:13–22	John 14:15–21
	May 18	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Psalm 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 21	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 68:1–10	1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11	John 17:1–11
PENTECOST	May 28	The Day of Pentecost	Num. 11:24–30	Psalm 25:1–15	Acts 2:1–21	John 7:37–39

OTHER NEWS

- **PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST:** As a reminder to all members, a chain phone call prayer request is available for all members. To either make a chain call prayer request or to start receiving chain prayer calls, please contact either your Elder or Pastor.
- **NURSERY:** Nursery is provided for children during worship service.
- **NEW CHURCH EMAIL:** The new office email is CLC1888@outlook.com
- **MEMBER INFORMATION:** If you haven't verified your updated member information, please see the printed copy in the back of the sanctuary.
- **CONGEGATIONAL MEETING:** The quarterly congregational meeting is May 21 after the service.
- **SUGGESTION CARDS:** Suggestion cards are available in the Sanctuary for recommendations and/or complaints.
- **MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** We will celebrate May's birthdays and anniversaries on May 7 after the service. Please join us for fellowship and cake.



Thank you to Janet Torries for your selfless service to our church. We thank you for your many years of service as our secretary. We are so grateful and very much appreciative for the time and dedication that you have given to our church family. Thank you.



Mary Martha News

Mary Martha meeting will be Sunday May 14 after the worship service.

Need a Greeting Card?

Mary Martha has a 'card table' in Memorial Hall. There are cards for every occasion from birthdays to weddings to baby showers. You name it, there's a card for that! The cost is 50¢, a deal that's tough to beat! You'll also find other items of interest as well as copies of the Mary Martha Cookbook.

THANK YOU!

The ladies of Mary Martha would like to thank the congregation for your generous support of our Spaghetti Dinner Take-Out! We raised \$570 dollars and were able to send \$600 to the LCMS Hurricane Disaster Relief fund for support of other congregations suffering from disasters! Having suffered ourselves from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, we were pleased to be a small part of assistance to congregations like ours. Thank you for your support.

Who's your hero?

Save the date for VBS! - July 11-13, 2023 with a theme of Hero Hotline. We'll follow our typical schedule for a family friendly VBS. We'll gather for a meal and then a Bible study related to our theme. There'll be good food, good News, and great fellowship! Please save the date, invite a friend, and join us for VBS 2023!



Congregational Meeting May 21, 2023 after the service. Please plan to attend.



Church Council Meeting: 04/17/2023

6 attendees

Kevin Rademacher called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. Copies of the March minutes were distributed. Motion made, seconded and carried to waive reading of the March minutes.

Pastor's Report: See attached report.

Pastor's Report was distributed and reviewed.

Adult Bible Study: Season 2 of The Chosen.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter services were well attended.

Possible weekday Bible Study to be discussed at Congregational Meeting on May 21, 2023.

Shuckers baseball game scheduled for Friday, May 12 - ticket info to follow. Pastor will reach out to the other Coastal churches to see if there is any interest.

Pastor will be on vacation April 19-27, 2023. Pastor Cooper will conduct the service. He

Will be traveling to attend a wedding and will be out town May 4-7. This will be a lay service.

President - Kevin Rademacher

We will need to find a church secretary. This will be discussed at the Congregational meeting (5/21/23). A job description is being developed and it is anticipated that the secretary will work 4-6 hours per week. Treasurer reports that we could afford a salary \$10.50 per hour with a cap of \$100/\$150 per month.

Work continues on the new Church Directory. Kevin will format the final edition and Donna Krebs will print for distribution to members.

Vice President - Roger Cox

No report; however, volunteers to serve as Ushers are still needed. There is a Usher and Flower sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Elders - Jay Torries

Tablet training for the organ and Elder training sessions will be starting around the end of May.

Financial Secretary - Carl Erichsen

March collections: \$15,012.00 general fund; \$900 for self-insurance; \$5000 for endowment

April to date: \$6,392.50 -general fund; \$1000 for self-insurance

Year to Date: \$48,368.78

Treasurer - Lin Jacobson - No report

Trustees - Dave Griffin

Kevin expressed Dave's thanks for the great turn out for the Cleaning Day on April 1st and advised that the door to the Bell Tower still needs some work. Shawn Robbins installed a new hot water heater and Carl Erichsen made toilet repairs. A new dehumidifier has been installed in the Sanctuary, is being drained to the outside and seems to be working well (humidity around 50%); however, there is still a need for a moisture barrier under the Church. The bell rope broke and Carl is repairing it. The Bradford Pear trees on the side of the Sanctuary need to be trimmed.

Safety Committee

Purchase of AED is still pending but Kevin reminded council that there would be periodic need for replacement of battery and pads.

Evangelism - John Tetreau

John will help administer the Facebook page to keep information current and relevant.

Mary Martha - Donna Krebs

The Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser made \$570 and Mary Martha will be sending \$600 to The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod for 'Hurricane relief'. The ladies suggest we try a 'coffee fellowship sponsorship' to try to increase attendance after worship. This would entail a member bringing a baked good (homemade or store bought) for the fellowship after worship. A sign-up sheet will be added to the table at the back of the church. The ladies also suggest that a 'Visitor Card' be designed to be given to visitors which would include name, address, worship times, etc. Donna Krebs will work on this project.

Youth - position vacant

Education - Donna Krebs

Sunday Schools classes for children and adults are on-going. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 11-13, 2023 with a theme of Hero Hotline. Materials have been ordered and received and include a banner to be used by Evangelism to let the community know about our event. As usual, this will be a family event and will include dinner.

Social Ministry - Kathleen Cox

No report

Stewardship - Rita Shepherd & Cathy Groff

No report

Endowment Fund - Members: VP, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, At-large Council member (D. Krebs) & Pastor.

No report

Old Business:

Holy Land tour 2024 - interested members should contact Pastor

Two (2) large print Hymnals will be purchased.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned upon motion and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Krebs for Susan Rademacher, Secretary



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none.
- The Sunday adult Bible study is watching and discussing season 2 of The Chosen.
- Lent and Holy Week: pretty good attendance at soup suppers on Wednesdays,
- Weekday Bible study? This was brought up at the last meeting. What day/time and how to gauge interest?

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- Shuckers baseball game: Friday, May 12 – ticket info to come.
- VBS dates are July 11 – 13.
- Looking ahead: game night in September

Circuit, District, and Synod

- Circuit meetings: our last meeting was March 21 at St. Matthew – Gulfport. The next is April 18 at Lamb of God – Slidell, which will be the last regular meeting before summer break.
- As circuit visitor, I am still helping congregations in Biloxi and Hattiesburg fill their vacancies.
- That synodical election is on June 17; our congregation's voters are Pastor Waffel and Kevin Rademacher.

Travel

- Vacation time for 2023: 2 days out of 21 (0 Sundays out of 3)
- Planned travel for April: we're going to TN April 19 to April 27. Pastor Adam Cooper is filling in on Sunday, April 23.
- Planned travel for May: Eve's cousin is getting married in Houston the first weekend of May, so we will be gone May 4 – 7.

Other Activities, General Information



- Good turnout for the clean-up day on April 1! About a dozen people came and we got a lot done.

Visitation and Pastoral Care

- Jeff Welty – still receiving dialysis
- Audrey Anderson – doing well in assisted living in Ocean Springs (Truewood)
- Bob and Betty Andrews – mostly the same, visited April 11
- Maria Pike – visited, still experiencing a lot of leg and back pain
- Janet Torries – was in the hospital for a couple days last week, back home now
- Frank Feazell – still fatigued but otherwise says he's okay.



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Courtney Davis			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Elders 11:15 LWML Meeting: 11:15  Lindsey Hartwig	Council 6:00					Laura Millette
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Congregational Meeting 11:15		Kolton Pellegrin Tyler Schollian	Terry Pike			
28	29	30	31			
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00			Angie Howard			