



# The Watchman



2020

## Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



As this month brings with it our annual day of Thanksgiving, it is perhaps the one occasion each year when many Americans are bit self-reflective about the blessings we have. It is an excellent thing that our nation has this tradition, even one day a year having a public call to be grateful for what we have. But I've noticed that for many people, this takes the form of nothing more than a generic, non-specific feeling of thankfulness. To truly give thanks, though, we need to have a clear idea of who we are thanking for it: that is, of course, the Lord our God who created everything and continues to sustain and bless His entire Creation. I appreciate these words of Martin Luther, with his signature turn of phrase:

*Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2*

“The works of the Lord are great. But in this passage, the psalmist points out that only a few devout people notice what God has done. Most people don't praise God or thank him. They never say, ‘Great are the works of the Lord.’ Though they are completely surrounded by his gifts, they have gotten used to them. They take advantage of what God has given them, rooting around in God's gifts like a hog in a bag of feed. They say, ‘What's so special about the fact that the sun shines, fire gives warmth, the ocean provides fish, the earth yields grain, cows have calves, women give birth the children, and hens lay eggs? These things happen every day!’

“Is something insignificant just because it happens every day? If the sun wouldn't shine for ten days, suddenly it would be a great thing when it began shining again. If fire existed only in one place on the earth, I think it would be more precious than gold or silver. If there were only one well in the world, I

would imagine that a drop of water would be worth more than a thousand dollars.

“God showers people with rich and wonderful blessings. But how ungrateful and blind people are! They don't recognize these blessings as amazing miracles from God, so they don't admire them, give thanks for them, or act happy about them. However, if a clown can walk on a tightrope or train monkeys, people are ready to admire and praise him for it. The psalmist points out that the Lord's works are great, but these works are appreciated only in the eyes of God's faithful followers.”

So let us indeed be thankful people, grateful to our gracious Lord who does daily and richly provide for us and bless us. Even in this year, which has admittedly been stressful for most of us, let our praise and thanksgiving always outweigh this world's troubles.

## October Birthdays 2019

Bobby Trehern

Joseph Waffel

Crystal Robbins



## Elders & Lay Readers

- 1 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Jody H.)
- 8 Kevin Rademacher & T.J. Schmelter (Rita S.)
- 15 Jody Heusman & Dave Hamilton (Jay T.)
- 22 Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Dave G.)
- 29 T.J. Schmelter & Kevin Rademacher (2<sup>nd</sup> Elder)



- 2 Dave & Tanya Hamilton
- 7 Frank & Sylvia Fezell
- 10 Bobby & Marilyn Trehern
- 12 Susie & Henry Denton
- 24 Terry & Maria Pike
- 29 Robert & Stephanie Maggard



### BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Chesney Hamilton
- 12 Brondum Krebs
- 14 Jonathan Torries
- 19 Justin Linn
- 20 James Crowell
- 22 Tim Krebs
- 24 Stephanie Maggard
- 25 Reece Hamilton
- 26 Abigail Hamilton



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

What piece of clothing made Joseph's brothers jealous? Was it a coat, shoes, belt or special headpiece? Genesis 37:3

# Mary Martha News

We will be collecting mites at the worship service Sunday November 1st and then on the first Sunday of each month. Mary Martha meets on November 2nd at 5:30.

- Mary Martha is receiving a grant from Thrivent to supply goodies along with homemade brownies to our local first responders the first week of November. We are asking anyone who would like to supply a pan of brownies in a disposable pan for this service project to bring them to the church on November 1. **Some disposable pans and brownie mix are available at the back of the church.**
- Mary Martha is sponsoring a church wide donation of gift cards (Visa, Mastercard, Target, Walmart) to be collected for hurricane relief. If you would like to donate, please give to a M/M member or leave in the office by December 6 so they can be distributed before Christmas.

## Mission Grant 16 Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow LCMS School Ministries \$80,000

The need for well-trained leaders for our Lutheran schools is already great and increasing. To address the critical shortage of school administrators, the School Leadership Development Program (SLED) has been redesigned to better equip educators with the tools needed to lead Lutheran schools in the 21st century. God's children are well served and His kingdom is expanded with the help of knowledgeable educators. These grant funds will provide training to equip 30 qualified candidates for placement as administrators in LCMS schools who will directly impact thousands of students, helping them grow as disciples of Christ.

## November Scripture Readings

	Nov. 1	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
	Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalms 70	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13
	Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7-16	Psalms 90:1-12	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30
	Nov. 22 (Proper 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalms 95:1-7a	1 Cor. 15:20-28	Matt. 25:31-46
	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1-10	Psalms 67	Phil. 4:6-20 <i>or</i> 1 Tim. 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19
<b>ADVENT</b>	Nov. 29	First S. in Advent	Is. 64:1-9	Psalms 80:1-7	1 Cor. 1:3-9	Mark 11:1-10 <i>or</i> Mark 13:24-37



## Church Council Meeting: 10/19/2020

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order.

Pastor Waffel opened the meeting with prayer

Pastor Report: see written report;

Gov Reeves issued new guidance on social distancing/COVID protective measures. We will evaluate the new guidance and compare to current practices to determine if changes need to be made. We will continue to meet CDC guidelines.

Attendance has been good lately

Oktoberfest outside yesterday was a success. It was a beautiful day, about 40 attended.

We need to look for an additional organist

Pastor Waffel was elected as the new Circuit Visitor.

President (Shawn Robbins): no additional report

VP (Kevin Rademacher): no report

Elder (Jody) - basically working with 3 elders as T. J. & Dave H. Are out due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Trustees (Jerold Shepherd) Next project is to replace lights in the altar room and hallway in the Fellowship hall. Still need to replace three metal doors in the Fellowship hall.

Financial Secretary: (Carl Erichsen) Total contributions for September: \$7626,

October so far: \$ 6065

Hurricane relief: \$1105

YTD: 99371.32 + we have received 1035.97 through PayPal.

YTD total including PayPal contributions= 100407.29

Treasurer (Lin Jacobson): collections have been steady; \$2693.03 checking account balance; all bills paid; one additional salary payment to Pastor due end of the month.

Council discussed resuming contributions to the district. Lin will make a contribution of \$500. We agreed to a goal of quarterly contributions next year of \$350.

Mary Martha: Collecting gift cards for hurricane relief. Purchase gift cards such as VISA, Target, Walmart, and turn in to Mary Martha members by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mary Martha received a Thrivent grant which will be used to bring brownies to local first responders. If you are baking brownies, please bring Nov 1. Nativity Walk this year is canceled.

Youth: (Dave Griffin):--no report  
Education (Donna): no report

Social Ministry (Melonee): October birthday cards were sent to retirees and making calls to housebound members as possible.

Stewardship (Jay) - no report

Old Business: none

New Business: Jerold Shepherd suggested starting a church endowment fund, where donations would be made to the fund and the interest would be used as the church saw fit. Motion was made and seconded to present a plan to the congregation to establish an endowment fund.

Meeting was adjourned.

Pastor closed with The Lord's Prayer.

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

### **Membership, Worship, and Christian Education**

- Membership changes: none

- No changes with our Sunday morning plans at the moment. We've averaged 35-45 in the sanctuary each week, still with the alternate pew distancing and everyone wearing masks. As we sometimes approach 50, are we willing to consider opening up more pews?

- In Sunday morning Bible class, we have finished the new TV show The Chosen based on the Gospels and will be moving on to something new; first, a short 3-part series on Christian citizenship, then possibly The Story. I am still posting a weekly Bible study video online.





- 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.
- Oktoberfest on Oct. 18 was great! We had about 40 people stay, and the weather for holding it outside was beautiful; the consensus seems that we ought to keep having it outdoors in the future, if weather permits.
- Search for an additional organist: we are thankful for Rita and Tanya's service, but they'd appreciate some relief if we can find another organist to help out!

### **Mission, Witness, and Outreach**

- The online services are 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.

### **Circuit, District, and Synod**

- For the foreseeable future, we are holding our monthly circuit meetings online via Zoom.
- Gary Weier is coming to the term-limited end of his service as circuit visitor, and I have been elected to take his place beginning in summer 2021.

### **Travel**

- Vacation time to date for 2020: 13 days used out of 24 total (0 Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel in October: no travel, but I took a couple of days off when family were visiting us here.
- Planned travel in November: with approval from the elders, we will again visit family in Tennessee for Thanksgiving as they cover the Thanksgiving Eve service.

### **Other Activities, General Information**

- Eve is on the board of directors of a new group to start a community theatre for Pascagoula. As their first fundraiser event, they are discussing a dramatic reading of "A Christmas Carol" in December, and we wondered about using our fellowship hall as the venue.
- Possible fellowship activity: movie theatre in d'Iberville is offering private showings for a group up to 20, with a lot of options for the movie.
- 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; <https://www.christlutheranchurchms.org>

## **A Thought about Stewardship**

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



Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

## November 1, 2020



**Congregational Meeting November 22 @ 11:30 am**

**From the Nominations Committee**

President - Shawn Robbins  
Vice President - Kevin Rademacher  
Secretary - Susan Rademacher  
Treasurer - Lin Jacobson  
Financial Secretary - Carl Erichsen  
Elder Chair - Louis Bontly  
These are your current church officers.

Trustee - Jerald Shepherd  
Education - Cathy Groff, Donna Krebs  
Evangelism -  
Youth - Dave Griffin  
Stewardship - Jay Torries  
Social Ministry - Kathy Griffin, Melonee Crews

Have you ever thought about serving a term on the Church Council? Have you ever wondered exactly what's involved with each position? What is the job description? How much time does it actually take? What happens if I have a conflict at some point during the year? The officers would be happy to talk with you about what they do, how easy it is and how much joy and satisfaction they get from their service.

Maybe you are concerned about taking on a position 'cold-turkey'. Any position would be happy to have a co-chair or even a committee member.

Look this over! Consider your time and talents in addition to your money when it comes to serving the church and our mission in the world! If you would like to be considered for a position, please speak with any current officer.





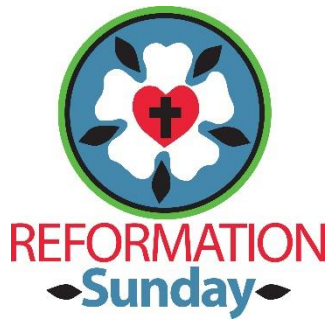
# Oktoberfest















## Sunday School Little Fisher of Men!



**Lesson: Jesus cooking breakfast for his disciples and telling them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat...**

# November

## 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Time Change</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	2 Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30	3	4 	5	6	7 Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  <b>a coat</b>
8 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	9	10	11	12	13	14 Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
15 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 Elders 11:00	16 Council 6:00	17	18	19	20	21 
22 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00 <b>Congregational Meeting 11:30</b>	23	24 Pastor out of town	25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00	26 	27	28
29 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	30					

