



The Watchman



September
2020

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



I know you all remember the big 500th anniversary of the Reformation three years ago, the anniversary of Luther posting the 95 Theses and sparking something much larger. But since the Reformation was a long process, with the work and sacrifice of many men and women over the years, there are many more 500th anniversaries coming over the next decade or so. In fact, many of those events are probably more important and more influential on us today than the 95 Theses themselves.

This year, 2020, marks the 500th anniversary of three of the most important documents of the Reformation process. From 1517 to 1519, the original issue of indulgences quickly led to arguments over the authority of the pope himself, and by 1520 the Reforming theologians saw it was necessary to take on the subject. In 1520, Martin Luther wrote three critically important essays: *Address to the Christian Nobility*, discussing the different God-given callings of church and state and speaking against the Church wielding political power; *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, against Roman

Catholicism's views on the sacraments and especially giving laypeople only the bread in the Lord's Supper while denying them the cup; and finally, *The Freedom of a Christian*.

The last one is perhaps the most important, because it's a clear and groundbreaking way to articulate the life of a Christian and the relationship between salvation solely by faith and the fact that Christians are indeed called to do good works in their lives. He wrote, "**A Christian is the most free lord of all, subject to none; and a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, subject to everyone.**" In these apparently contradictory sentences, he sums up the paradox of Christian faith and Christian living.

A Christian is indeed free from everything: no one and nothing in this world can affect our standing with God, which comes only by faith in Christ. We are totally free of every demand, law, or requirement when it comes to being right with Him. Yet we are called to use this freedom to serve others in the same way that Christ himself says he came "to serve, not to be served." The freedom of

a Christian, the freedom Scripture describes and God promises, is not a license to do whatever we want, free from any restraint. The freedom of a Christian is the freedom from sin and selfishness, freed to obey God's Law, which is simply summed up by love.

While on the outside, this may not look very different from anyone else, it is a radically different viewpoint of why we do what we do. The same pamphlet also says, "Doing good works does not make a person good; but a good person does good works." Or even more plainly, "God doesn't need your good works -- but your neighbor does." The freedom of a Christian looks vastly different from the secular idea of freedom: we were slaves to sin, and Christ has set us free not just to "be saved and go to heaven," but to live freely as God's children, free from the burden of imagining we have to earn or deserve salvation, free from the burden of thinking "we'll go to heaven if we're good people," free to take risks in actually putting others before ourselves, secure in the knowledge that God has already taken care of all the really important things on our behalf.

August 2019 Anniversary & Birthdays

L-R: Kirk & Emma Pellegrin, Rita
Shepherd and Jay Torries



Elders & Lay Readers



- 6 T.J. Schmelter & Kevin Rademacher (Donna K.)
- 13 bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins (Ruby D.)
- 20 Dave Hamilton & Jody Heusman (Shawn R.)
- 27 Kevin Rademacher & T.J. Schmelter (Carl E.)

- 3 Audrey Anderson
- 6 Dee Kelley
- 7 Travis Cook
- 7 Hanna Dunlap
- 19 Lee Shepherd
- 19 Dave Griffin
- 22 Harrel Paul
- 28 Maria Pike
- 29 Johnny Schollian
- 29 Deborah Schulte
- 30 Roger Cox



- 7 Shawn & Crystal Robbins



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

What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
Was it prosperity, a new barn for his grain, fame
or wisdom? 1 Kings 3:9

Mary Martha News

Mary Martha will not be meeting in September. We will be back in October. LWML Sunday is on October 4th, remember to continue to collect your Mites and bring to this service .

Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln

University Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln, Nebraska

\$50,000

God has used the ministries of the University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) to reach students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The connection between ULC, international students, and young adults in the downtown community is an important one which will provide those in need with Christian counseling services in a comfortable, easily accessible space. Research shows young adults are especially susceptible to depression leading to suicide making it the second most common cause of death among college students. ULC sits on the very edge of the University of Nebraska campus in the heart of Lincoln. It is the hope of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Nebraska District to use this building and its location as a hub of hope and healing for the students and young adults in the downtown community. It is our prayer that the students and community members who use this Hope and Healing Hub might be drawn into a relationship with Jesus, leading to faithful participation in the Word and Sacrament ministry offered there. This grant will make the building more inviting while offering Christian counseling services through GracePoint Institute for Relational Health.



Recent research shows young adults are especially susceptible to depression leading to suicide, making it the second most common cause of death among college students. The University Lutheran Chapel sits on the very edge of the University of Nebraska campus in the heart of downtown Lincoln. It is the hope of the Nebraska District to use this building and its location as a hub of hope and healing for the students and young adults in the downtown community who are suffering with hopelessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide. It is the prayer that the students and community members who use this Hope and Healing Hub might be drawn into a relationship with the Body of Christ and Jesus as its head, leading to faithful participation in the Word and Sacrament ministry offered there.

September Scripture Readings

Sept. 6 (Proper 18)	Ezek. 33:7-9	Psalms 32:1-7	Rom. 13:1-10	Matt. 18:1-20
Sept. 13 (Proper 19)	Gen. 50:15-21	Psalms 103:1-12	Rom. 14:1-12	Matt. 18:21-35
Sept. 20 (Proper 20)	Isa. 55:6-9	Psalms 27:1-9	Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30	Matt. 20:1-16
Sept. 27 (Proper 21)	Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalms 25:1-10	Phil. 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18	Matt. 21:23-27 (28-32)



Minutes 8/17/2020

Pastor Report: see written report; little change from last month and not really expecting much change in the near future.

Quarterly Meeting: missed last quarter b/c of Covid; possible short meeting in sanctuary immediately after worship with abbreviated agenda; advance notice in bulletin and possible robo call and/or email

Circuit Visitor term ending; nominations being accepted.

Potential Pascagoula Little Theater fund raiser could be held in Mem. Hall. Good outreach, etc.

Movie in D'Iberville

Hannah Dunlap is checking into Deaconess program

Pres/VP: no report

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

Financial Secretary: (Carl Erichsen) \$8477 - July receipts; \$6474 - August to date; \$80,890.32 YTD: all amount do not include \$690.32 paid thru PayPal.

Treasurer (Lin Jacobson): collections have been steady; \$1785.75 checking account balance; all bills paid; one additional salary payment to Pastor due end of the month.

Trustee: No report

Mary Martha: (Janet) August meeting cancelled; planning a Brown Bag supper for September if we can have the meeting at all depending on the status of Covid. Suggested a possible fund raiser or freewill offering for Disaster Relief in Iowa: Concordia Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids or Lutheran School, Newhall.

Youth: (Dave G.) Possible canoe trip - 8/29 or subsequent; Movie idea also a good 'youth' event.

Education (Donna): Children's message continues to be postponed

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

Stewardship (Jay) - stewardship articles each week in bulletin; otherwise, no report

Old Business: VBS - cancelled for 2020 due to Covid;

New Business: possible Oktoberfest celebration outdoors depending on Covid and weather.

Meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed with The Lord's Prayer. Thank you Donna Krebs for taking the minutes!

The meeting was adjourned.

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council August 2020



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: none.
- No changes with our Sunday morning plans at the moment. We've averaged 30-40 in the sanctuary each week, still with the alternate pew distancing and everyone wearing masks. If you are having any symptoms, even mild, please stay home! Otherwise we continue to gather for worship.
- We are having Sunday morning Bible class, and are 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.
- We skipped May's congregational meeting because of corona restrictions; now in August, we're due for another: do we plan to have one?

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

- There is a virtual circuit meeting tomorrow morning (Aug. 18) which I will attend.
- We are approaching the end of Gary Weier's term as circuit visitor and we have the opportunity to nominate another pastor from our circuit to take his place.

Travel

- Vacation time to date for 2020: 7 days used out of 24 total (0 Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel in August: none.
- Planned travel in September: none.

Other Activities, General Information

- Eve is on the board of directors of a new group attempting 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 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>.



VOTERS ASSEMBLY

August 30, 2020

Due to COVID restrictions, an abbreviated Voters Assembly was held in the sanctuary following service. All members maintained social distance guidelines and wore masks.

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order.

Pastor Waffel opened with prayer.

The reading of previous minutes was waived. Sign in sheets were not used (COVID guidelines). Approximately 40 members were present.

Pastor Waffel: We will continue to worship, observing social distancing guidelines. Worship and study videos are also posted on Facebook. Pastor asked if there was interest in movie night at the Grand Theater. The Grand can be reserved for groups up to 20 people, to facilitate social distancing. We are also considering holding Oktoberfest outside in October.

President: Shawn Robbins: Consider serving on the church council. Elections will be held soon.

Vice President: Kevin Rademacher: Thanked Pastor for all his hard work and in providing additional worship and online devotions.

Elders: Jody Heusmann: Elders are available –reach out if you need assistance

Trustees: Jerold Shepherd: No report

Financial Secretary report is available in the church council meeting minutes.

Treasurer: No report

Youth: Dave Griffin: Canoe trip planned for 9/26. Contact Dave if you would like to attend.

Education: Donna Krebs: We missed VBS, but Sunday School is still available for the children. If you would like to volunteer to teach, let Donna or Cathy Groff know.

Social Ministry continues to send cards to retirees and calls homebound members.

Stewardship: No report

Old Business; None

New Business: Disaster relief love offering will be collected after the meeting and sent to Southern District for distribution to congregations impacted by Hurricane Laura.

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher



A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed).

And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.



SEPTEMBER

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Calendar subject to change due to CDC recommendations						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00	LABOR DAY Office Closed					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						
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	Autumn Begins				
27	28	29	30			
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  wisdom

