



November 2020

The Harvest

Dear People of God at Christ Church,

What a difficult time we are living in. Nothing seems stable or “normal.” In spite of that we need to carry on. Our Lord Jesus has given us, “the peace of God that passes all understanding.” What that means is that, in spite of the storm that is tossing the ship around we are yet secure. As He slept in the boat on the sea of Galilee, he gave us and the early followers an example. We must hold fast and trust, in spite of how it looks or feels, that our God has promised to see us through all storms.

It is stewardship time again. I am not sure how you feel but I feel like the Church has shut down and not been there for me. But I also do not know how the Church should be acting at a time when “the experts” are trying everyday to get a fix on this virus and what to do and how to handle it.

However, I do know that the Christ Church community needs to hold fast and stick together. I am not sure what the new normal will be but feel confident that we will have a vaccine soon and have a more secure time of it.

At the same time we need to remember that time, talent and treasure are part of our blessings to be good stewards of.

As we consider our commitments and other responsibilities, we need to keep in mind the needs of the Church and the importance of having things in order as we transition into a more normal and healthy state.

I ask you to be in prayer and consider your response to your Church as you fill

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To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

<https://christlockport.info/>

Compline – Wednesday 7:00 pm
Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30
Sunday Service Options
Donate with PayPal

Outreach Projects

Warm Up for Winter

Saturday 10/31/2020 11:00 – 1:00

We are gathering warm winter clothing for our neighbors in need. We need warm mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, socks, work clothes, snow suits, etc. for men, women and children of all ages. Items must be new, and both purchased and homemade are welcome. Since we aren't able to do our Christmas Outreach, we will be working with other agencies to get your donations to those who need them most.

Second Saturday Food Collection

November 14, 2020

This collection will have two goals:

1. We will be helping collect items for the Thanksgiving dinners Brother's Keeper provides. We need:
 - Canned corn or beans
 - Boxed stuffing
 - Cranberry sauce
 - Turkeys, turkey/chicken breasts
 - Frozen pies
2. We will be collecting non-perishable items for the blessing boxes. Remember that some of the people who depend on the blessing boxes may be homeless, so please include ready to eat items also.

As always, if you are unable to get groceries to the food drive, you can make a contribution. Send your check to Christ Church and we will be sure it is used to help those in need.

out your pledge card. I find that my mind feels more settled when I shut off the news and stop looking at the terrible things on facebook.

Not to deny the reality of the day but to filter out the garbage, as St. Paul would say. I recommend that we all stop and ask our Lord what would you have me do? Then pause for a time and listen. You will not hear a voice, but you may feel that a clue has been put on your heart as to how to respond.

At any rate, please be safe and know that you are missed and yet needed for the success of our congregation.

Sincerely and in Christ's name,

Faithfully,

Father A. Sam+

“God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:25 (The Message)

In Genesis 1:28, we read “Be *responsible*...for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.” These are God's words, spoken to the human beings made in the image of God, reflecting God's nature. To be responsible is to be able to answer for one's conduct and obligations; to be trustworthy. God created the heavens and the earth and every creature above, upon and under the earth. God trusted the human beings to be responsible for God's Creation.

Fast forward to this tumultuous year of 2020. Earth and everything above, upon and under it is under siege. We are likely to see records set with the number of named hurricanes that make landfall. The states of Texas and Louisiana are reeling from two powerful hurricanes that landed six weeks apart. The scientists' data supports the fact that the warmer ocean waters create more numerous and powerful hurricanes. The ocean waters are warmer because the air above them is warmer, which in turn is due to the chemicals being released into the atmosphere around the globe.

Housing for minorities and the poor is often built near industrial sites, landfills and highways, resulting in high rates of chronic illness due to the tainted land, water and air. This year's hurricane storm surges have made the coastal areas even more dangerous, as the surges lifted up the concrete caps on the toxic landfills, allowing torrents of toxic water to stream into the homes of the nearby neighborhoods, many of which are the homes of the “least among us” who do not have the means to move away. These are our siblings in Christ. These are the people whom Jesus speaks of in Matthew 25:40, “...whatever you did for one of these least, you did for me”.

What can we do? Does the reality of this unsettled world lead us to be despondent and feel helpless? God's Creation has revealed to us the intersection of poverty and inequality with the choices human beings have made to the detriment of other human beings. We are all connected with one another and with Creation. We are called by the Resurrected Christ to be people of hope and of action. "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23) God is depending on us to do our part to be responsible for and faithful to God's Creation, including our fellow human beings. Little actions add up over time; it requires paying attention to the

products we buy and how we dispose of them. It requires supporting renewable energy projects. It requires finding our voices and speaking up when we see corporations and government at all levels making decisions that will only cause more harm to God's Creation. This fragile Earth, our island home, is groaning and pleading for our attention.

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"
 "Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?"

**Will we honestly respond to these questions with "I will, with God's help."?*

Robin Kozlowski
 Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate

Stewardship

Our virtual stewardship campaign continues through November 15th. We use materials and plans from TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) customized for Christ Church. The bulletin inserts are thought-provoking, and they are available each week at ChristLockport.info/Stewardship. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to download and read the inserts.

Please read Fr. Sam's letter on the first page of this Harvest. I don't know about you, but it made me feel like the early Christians in Thessalonica, Corinth, or Philippi who received letters of advice, encouragement and love from Jesus' followers when they were struggling.

Please get your pledge cards back to the church by November 15th. The Finance Committee proposes a budget to the Vestry in November. The Vestry finalizes the budget in December so we are ready for the new year and also for Annual Meeting in January.



Birthdays

- 9 Almon Leach
- 12 Cindy Few
- 13 Maggie Lupo
Joe Mrowczynski
- 16 Richard Southard
- 17 Ron Winter
- 19 Marilyn Harris
- 21 Cooper Buchanan
- 23 Gen Nelson
- 26 Hutch Hutchins
- 28 Dan Watson

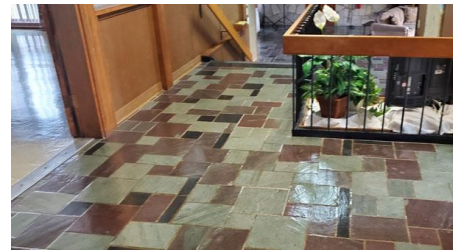
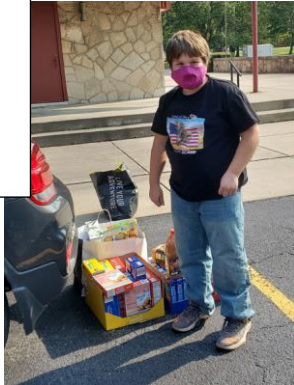
Anniversaries

- 4 Bob & Cindy Theurer
- 6 Fr. Joe & Robin Kozlowski
- 12 Jack & Jean Taylor
- 18 Al & Cindy Shaw
- 27 Michael & Tammy Steen

October at Christ Church

When you are isolating and not at Church, it is hard to keep up with what is happening. In October we have cleared the parish hall, cleaned the floors in the parish hall, kitchen, coat room, choir robe room, and back stairs by the kitchen, cleaned the carpets in the nursery, downstairs hall and parlor, had a lot of repairs done on the boilers, cleaned the whole parish hall building – floors are clean and surfaces wiped down, the nursery is now clean and ready for kids, the chapel is cleaned and ready for Sunday School, non-essential items have been removed, choir robes are packed away, the elevator maintenance was done and the hydraulic hose replaced, and best of all, we have had some wonderful (if chilly) services in the parking lot and we continued our food drives for those in need.

This young man is the food drive hero. He was just confirmed and used half his gift money to buy food for our food drive to supply the Blessing Boxes!



Communion in the Parking Lot



Mikayla Collected Litter



Thanks to Tim McQueen and Mary Brennan-Taylor for sharing your pictures.



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www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY

Warm Up for Winter
Saturday, October 31st 11:00 – 1:00

New hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, work clothes, boots,... warm clothing needed for children, men and women. Items must be new – homemade and purchased are both welcome.

Second Saturday Food Collection
Saturday, November 14th 11:00 – 1:00

We will be collecting food to help with the Thanksgiving Dinners available from Brother's Keeper and for the Blessing Boxes in Lockport. *Read more on page 2*



Daylight Savings Ends 11/1/2020

Set your clocks back



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