



Life Lines

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February 2022

a message from our pastor

In January, I began teaching the adult class after worship. We started with an introductory session and moved into an old video tape series "What Does It Mean To Be A Christian" featuring our first Presiding Bishop the Rev. Herbert Chilstrom. In the course of the introductory session, some questions surfaced which caused me to stop and back up a couple of steps. One of those questions was, "What is the Book of Concord?"

The Book of Concord is subtitled, "*The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*." These are the documents which serve as the foundation for Lutheran thought and practice. There are eight foundational documents: The Three Ecumenical Creeds; The Augsburg Confession (1530); Apology of the Augsburg Confession (September 1531); The Smalcald Articles (1537); Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (1537); The Small Catechism (1529); The Large Catechism (1529); and Formula of Concord (1577).

That is quite a bit to take in all at once. So we'll break it down. This year for our Lenten study, we will look at a portion of the Apostles' Creed - the third article. This will come from Luther's Small Catechism.

"The origins of Luther's Small Catechism stretch back to the earliest days of the Christian church. The Greek word *Katecho*, to sound again or from above, was already used by Paul (Gal. 6:6) to denote Christian instruction. By the second century, it had come to designate the pre-baptismal instruction of catechumens. A loan word in ecclesiastical Latin, Augustine first used the noun *catechismus* to denote basic Christian instruction. In the Middle Ages the church often narrowed this instruction to the Ten

Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Luther used the word in this way throughout his life" (Book of Concord, pg. 345).

So if your catechetical instruction was decades ago or not at all, we are heading for the third article of the Apostles' Creed. Quick review – The Creed has three articles which may be defined by person or function. By person - God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. By function - Creation, Redemption and Sanctification.

As we move through the weeks of Lent, understanding that Easter awaits, we will focus on article three - the work of the Holy Spirit. "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

I look forward to exploring this portion of the Catechism with you this year during our midweek services!!! Speaking of the Lenten Schedule, we begin with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy on March 2 (no meal this week). Following Ash Wednesday, we gather for Soup Suppers at 4:30 and Worship at 5:30. This year we will use Unfailing Light by Marty Haugen. You will love it!

God's Peace-

Pr. Groce



From our President.....

Happy New Year to All, Vicki and I hope that you had a great holiday season with family and friends!

I am your new council president for the next two years. We have been members for the last three years. I have been in choir over that time, on the Stewardship Team, team leader and council member and leader of the CLC Memorial Golf Tournament for 2021. I know some of you know who I am, but I also realize many of you do not.

I grew up in Michigan, baptized and confirmed Missouri Synod, moved to Florida 40+ years ago and was an executive in electronic and parachute manufacturing companies. I serviced on councils in different roles during our time in Florida. Our last church in Lakeland was ELCA.

I am committed to help the CLC members, our pastor and the council to do the best I can to support, grow and be a team player for now and in the future. I do not like surprises so I hope not to give you any either. Total transparency and clear communication is the goal. To be a good communicator, we must be good listeners. Council meetings are open to all. Please attend if you would like and if you have a concern to discuss, let us know so we can put you on the agenda. Remember, council is the policy setting body for the church; individuals do not set policy.

I know I have some very outstanding and dedicated people that held this position before me. Very large shoes to fill! The problems/opportunities to deal with over the last few years have been very difficult at best. The council members and staff all worked together to keep CLC moving forward without naming individuals, for fear I would forget someone, I believe we all know who they are. Please take a moment when you see them to thank them for their service to CLC. I am sure they would appreciate it. A Job Well Done!

I came here thinking I would sing in the choir and that's all. We see how that worked out.

We are a very fortunate church to be financially stable. CLC is made up of a great caring and talented congregation. We need to thank God for bringing us all together to support our church, one another and our community.

I wish to thank all of you for your help and support in 2022. I am sure there will be some change moving forward but it will be well thought-out and agreed upon. Each team needs more help and there will be openings for upcoming council leaders. Also, needs for greeters, ushers and lectors. We will be looking at new ways to ask for your help and new member involvement. I am sure as we move forward this year there will be challenges and opportunities that our council team will face. I know with God's help and your help, we will continue in a positive way.

If you have a concern or question that you want to discuss with me, please contact me in person, call or text me at, or email or in person, let me know.

I promise all future articles will be short and to the point.

Let us all thank God for what we have every day. Have a blessed, safe and healthy 2022.

Gary Deierlein, Council President

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



Sharing the Peace



*from The
Sunday Assembly: Using
Evangelical Lutheran
Worship Volume One;
Brugh and Lathrop*

“In the flow of the service, the flow of the pattern for worship used by ELW, the prayers are then finally concluded by the peace. That greeting and gesture can also be regarded as the conclusion of the Word movement of the service and the transition to the Meal movement of the service. Like the prayer of the day, the peace functions as a seam between parts of the service.

As a conclusion to the intercessions, the peace enacts both a prayer and a proclamation. Christians remember the word of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: ‘Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.’ (Mk 11:25). The peace functions as a kind of seal on our prayers, a sign that we are serious about our praying. It is as if we were saying, with our gesture, ‘O God, help the world with the very peace and mutual forgiveness we are trying to

show here.’

The presiding minister, usually from wherever she or he is standing to conclude the prayers, if that place is visible to the congregation, speaks first. Again, the same gesture that was used at the greeting at the beginning of the service may be used here. The assembly responds, extending to the presiding minister this same peace of Christ with the words, ‘And also with you.’

In many places, then, the assembly may turn to greet each other with this same peace as well. It is as if each member of the assembly becomes the risen Christ to his or her neighbor. The gesture itself may vary greatly, each person sensing how the other person chooses. The two people, facing each other, may simply exchange the words or, perhaps, the words and a slight bow. Or the two may speak the words while exchanging a handshake or an embrace or a kiss. Or each person may grasp both of the other person’s lower arms, speaking the words in exchange with the other. In a time of contagious disease, some

people find this latter practice a useful option. (pp 172-174)”

Given the world of COVID -19, let us be mindful of a couple of things. One - sharing the peace is a prayer and has a liturgical function. We are sharing the “Peace” we have received with those people around us. Two - gestures and/or a brief “Peace of the Lord” is preferable to close contact and prolonged conversation.

By all means - greet visitors and members warmly, engage in conversation and catch up on current events, just do this before or after the worship service. When I was in Seminary, we did the same thing. Sharing the Peace would get longer and longer as each person moved about the chapel and engaged in conversation. Each semester, the Rev. Dr. Hoefler (Dean of the Chapel) would remind the community of soon-to-be worship leaders, “Sharing the Peace is not a time for conviviality.”

So, brothers and sisters, **“Peace be with you!”**

Notice of Annual Business Meeting

The Christ Lutheran Church Annual Business Meeting will be held on **February 13, 2022**, immediately following the Sunday morning service.

The agenda will include:

- Approval of the Minutes of the November 14, 2021 Annual Election and Budget Meeting.
- Approval of Annual Reports, including a review of the financial condition of the church as of December 31, 2021
- Approval of the Allocation of the 2021 Surplus Funds

For the church to conduct business at the meeting, there must be a quorum of 20% (57) of the voting members.

Please plan to attend.

Bread of Life February 13

CLC will be serving the February 13 noon meal at Bread of Life this month.

The menu can be found on the bulletin board or call the church office to select an item to make their meal complete. This month we will be providing meatloaf and various side dishes and dessert.

Please help make this ministry part of your grocery shopping list and meal prep.

Many men, women and children will have a warm meal and full tummy because of you.

Thanks!

Welcome to Coffee Hour Sunday mornings at 8:30

While you're enjoying your coffee, snack and conversation, please consider signing up to host. It's easy and rewarding to see your friends catching up with one another. Without a host, this fellowship opportunity will be forced to disappear.

The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Thanks!



2022 Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

There will be a Golf Tournament meeting on Wednesday, February 9, at 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to attend. All are welcome!



The following have been appointed by the Congregation Council:

- Glen House, Financial Secretary
- Sue Dugan, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Denise Knebel, Assistant Financial Secretary
- Sharon Oniga Audit Team Leader
- Joe Birmingham, Communications
- Craig Christen, IT Team Leader
- Denise Brown, Mutual Ministry Team Leader
- Bonnie Irvin, Personnel Team Leader

READINGS AND PSALMS FEBRUARY 2022

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
February 5 & 6	Isaiah 6:1-13	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
February 12 & 13	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
February 19 & 20	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38
February 26 & 27	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4-2	Luke 9:28-43a

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS—FEBRUARY 2022

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistant	Audio-Video Booth	Tellers
Saturday:							
February 5							
February 12			L & D Camp				
February 19							
February 26							
Sunday							
February 6	T & S Dugan		A Dodge; B Ramstad				
February 13	J & J Reemts		B Ramstad				
February 20	S Gauerke	B & P Bock		B Bock			
February 27	G & L Ferris		D Tenny				

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following in your prayers.

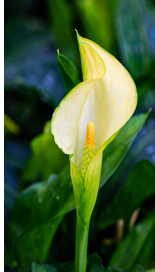
Names stay on Prayer Concerns for three weeks unless otherwise instructed. Call Vickie to extend the time or add names.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o George Anderson o Gayle Burroughs o Ruby Carr o Gloria Floros o John Garvey o Barbara Grove o Bill Henderson o Lowell Knobloch o Walt Mellor o Karen Toomey o Grayce Tyszko | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL o David & Alicia Brondos, our missionaries in Mexico o Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church, Nashville, our mission partner. o Christy Farber, daughter of Dave & Linda Farber o Tom Looney, husband of Ann Looney o Annie Mrozinski, granddaughter of June Levora o Bridget Stern, niece of Nancy Sparagna o Ace Tucker, 6-week old, great-great nephew of Karen Toomey |
|--|--|

Prayers and Deepest Sympathy

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to **Doris Sterud** upon the death of her 91-year-old sister, **Shirley Davis**, in Mesa, Arizona on Wednesday, January 12. Cards can be sent to Doris at 114 Chatham Lane, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558. Please keep Doris and her family in your prayers.

We rejoice with all the saints in heaven and on earth as we share our hope in the risen Christ and the promise of eternal life.



Education Team News

Sunday Education Time (SET) meets following worship in fellowship room C from 10:45-11:45.

January begins a new series looking at Lutheranism led by Pastor Groce. Called "Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism", the series continues for six weeks. Please look for the signup sheet in the Narthex and sign up so we can ensure adequate classroom space.

- 01/30 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 3
- 02/06 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 4
- 02/13 – No class – Congregation Meeting
- 02/20 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 5
- 02/27 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 6

CLC Education Team

SERVICE TEAM NEWS

Super Bowl LVI Sunday is Coming!
February 13, 2022

Want to feel like you are in \ Inglewood, CA? Join the fun!
And the best part is that it's also
ELCA SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY!
Look for the Narthex table with boxes
for your soup cans.

NFL FANS, bring **Tomato Soup!**
AFL FANS, bring **Chicken Noodle!**
Who will bring in the most support?
Who will win the Souper Bowl?
Only time will tell...

CLC Members were correct last year.
The most cans came in
for the real winning TEAM!

Soups will be delivered after the Super
Bowl to Peavine Care Center

Thank You!

Anniversary Celebration Postponed

Due to all the uncertainties in our world today, it has been decided to postpone the Anniversary Celebration. Hoping by 2024 we can celebrate 35 years in good health.



In the event of inclement weather at the time of a scheduled Worship service, the service will be held. If you feel safe in traveling, please attend; if not, please stay home. and stay safe. The Worship service will be live streamed as usual on Facebook. You can reach the livestream by going to the church website at christlutheranchurchffg.org. When you reach the site, click on the box that reads "Livestreaming on Facebook".

Count your blessings?

Jan 21, 2022 01:00 am

In certain circumstances, the absence of words can be more meaningful than speaking. I have led myself toward quick fixes and platitudes. If I feel stuck, I tell myself, "Count your blessings."

There are times when counting the blessings just doesn't work. Not yet. Just because I can see the blessings, doesn't mean I'm in a place to appreciate the view. I need time to grieve, to think about what I could have done differently. I need to know I'm stuck, so I can decide it's time to stop reveling in the pain.

It is right and good to count my blessings. I know this in times of plenty and want. It's just that I need to get there on my own. I have also come to realize that many people would value a friend who can simply sit quietly at their side, listening and waiting in equal measure.

This message is excerpted from "Moving Beyond Platitudes" by Karris A. Golden in the September 2018 Gather magazine. Today we commemorate Agnes, martyr, c. 304.

CLC will be offering **Stephen Ministry** training beginning in early February. **Openings are available** if you think this a ministry you'd like to participate in. **Men are urgently needed for our members.** Please contact Beverly Olin for more information and to apply.



Glen House and Rich Knebel complete the display for the Golf Tournament trophy.



Our Missionaries in Mexico with their family David and Alicia Brondos, with daughters Elizabeth and husband Matt, and Monica and her partner, Goofert (pronounced HOE-fert)

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!





- 2 Mary Cooper
- 3 Hazel Yaskanin
- 4 Becky Utz
- 5 Mike Morgan
- 6 Miriam Simmons
- 10 Sharon Oniga
- 11 Millie Kendall
- 14 Ron Borges
- 14 Gloria Floros
- 16 Bill Neeb
- 22 Linda Farber
- 22 Joe Garner.
- 22 Marcia Johnson
- 26 Matthew Christiansen



Happy Anniversary

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 5 | Bruce & Diane Klockars | 50 years |
| 6 | Gene & Linda Ferris | 40 years |
| 7 | Jon & Fay Kowalsky | 35 years |
| 11 | Don & Debbie Gunsten | 55 years |
| 17 | Fred & Paula Rehorst | 26 years |
| 23 | Al & Cindy Love | 49 years |
| 26 | Tom & Sue Dugan | 40 years |

**Life Lines submissions are due
February 15 for publication
in the March issue.
Items can be submitted
by email to Vickie at
parish.administrator@christlutheranchurchffg.org**

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FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30 a.m. Property Team Meeting	2 1:30 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 9:00 a.m. - Noon Pastor Groce Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 9:00 a.m. Finance Team Meeting 1:00 p.m. Kinseekers 4:00 p.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group	4 2:00 p.m. Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service	5 8:00 a.m. <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
6 8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	7 10:00 a.m. GriefShare - Via Zoom 1:00 p.m. <i>P.E.O. Sisterhood</i>	8 9:00 a.m. IT Team Meeting 10:00 a.m. Executive Team Meeting 3:00 p.m. <i>Plateau PC Users Group</i>	9 9:00 a.m. Golf Team Meeting 9:30 a.m. <i>Machine Embroidery Sewing Society</i> 1:00 p.m. <i>Korean War Vets Association</i> 1:30 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal 2:45 p.m. Worship & Music Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. <i>Cumberland Mountain Civil War Round Table</i>	10 9:00 a.m. - Noon Pastor Groce Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 1:00 p.m. Congregation Council Meeting 1:00 p.m. Welcome Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group	11 2:00 p.m. <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i>	12 8:00 a.m. <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 2:00 p.m. Bob Donalson Memorial Service 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
13 8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday Education Time 10:45 a.m. Stephen Ministers Meeting 12:30 p.m. Serving Lunch at Bread of Life	14 10:00 a.m. GriefShare Via Zoom	15 Life Lines submissions due 12:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	16 1:30 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Rehearsal Chancel Choir	17 9:00 a.m. - Noon Pastor Groce Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 12:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 4:00 p.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group	18 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Team Meeting 11:00 a.m. <i>Book Club</i> 2:00 p.m. <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i>	19 8:00 a.m. <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
20 8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday Education Time	21 10:00 a.m. GriefShare - Via Zoom	22 12:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	23 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. <i>PEO Founders' Day Luncheon</i> 1:30 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00 a.m. - Noon Pastor Groce Office Hours 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 12:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 3:30 p.m. Service Team Meeting 4:00 p.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group	25 2:00 p.m. <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i>	26 8:00 a.m. <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 9:00 a.m. Via de Cristo Reunion Group 5:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
27 8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. Sunday Education Time	28 10:00 a.m. GriefShare - Via Zoom	<p>NOTE: EVENTS IN ITALICS DENOTE OUTSIDE GROUPS WHO USE CLC'S FACILITIES.</p>				