



The Beacon

January
2021

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

320 N 28th St E
Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-
superior.org

**Divine Worship
Services**

Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.



With the new year upon us, people often think about what they could do to make the year a better one. There are always certain things that could be (should be) included. A person could eat better — eat more healthier foods and make a more intentional effort to stay away from the bad foods. A person could also exercise more. Who of us wouldn't benefit by being in better shape?

One of the things that should certainly be included in the possibilities is: having more time for God. In the busy world that we live in, it's becoming more and more of a challenge to do that. God certainly knew this would be a challenge for us. It's the reason why He gave us a commandment that specifically addresses that concern — the third commandment. For the sake of reminder, the third commandment says: ***“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”***. In our Lutheran understanding of that commandment, our catechism says: *“We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”*

The third commandment has various concerns it addresses, but perhaps the most important one is: *“we should gladly hear God's Word, learn it, and meditate on it”*. The catechism offers a number of Scriptural statements that support this emphasis.

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything in it.” (Joshua 1: 8)

Jesus said: *“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”* (Luke 11: 28)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3: 16)

It's a big teaching in our church that as we hear, read, and meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit works in us (through those words) to bring us to faith (and to make our faith stronger) and also enables us to lead the kind of life that God wants us to live. The Apostle Peter said:

*“You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but imperishable, **through the living and enduring Word of God.**”* (1 Peter 1: 23)

So, yes, all of us need to spend time hearing and/or reading God's Word. For many people, it's a hard thing to do for various reasons. Perhaps the biggest reasons is: the Bible is a big book — it has way too many pages to read. For those who have this as their number one hurdle in reading the Bible, it may be helpful to break the book down into a more manageable way to read it. For example, a person can read the entire Bible in one year just by reading four chapters a day. That's not a huge amount of reading. The issue then becomes one of being disciplined to do the reading on a regular basis. For those who struggle with reading, hearing the Bible read to you is the other option. A person can buy an audio version of the Bible at a very reasonable price from various places. If you have the discipline to listen to the Bible being read to you for twelve minutes a day, you will be able to hear the entire Bible in one year!

I would encourage everyone to seriously consider giving God twelve minutes a day for the 2021 year. In the first reading of the Bible, the vast majority of it may “go over your head”, but if you persevere with it, in time, it will begin to make more and more sense. The effort you give it will truly bring benefits that are out of this world. May God bless all of us as we strive to know Him better!

Pastor Bernecker

Guardian Angel Program 2021

You are invited to participate in our ***Guardian Angel Program in 2021***. If you are interested in participating in the Guardian Angel Program, you will need to fill out Guardian Angel registration form, one is attached at the end of the newsletter or located on the table in the Narthex outside of the church office. The bottom section of this form can be placed in the Guardian Angel basket on this same table. A name will be drawn for you, placed in an envelope, and placed in your church mailbox. You will keep this person in your prayers throughout 2021. You are welcome to remember your special person on significant dates (birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays) by sending cards or small gifts to this person. When signing your card, simply write, "From Your Guardian Angel." "Surprises" can be delivered in the mailboxes in the Narthex. We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year, at the Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch of 2022. **Unfortunately, there will be no brunch this year.**

*The forms should be at the church no later than **Sunday, January 17, 2021.***

If you can't get to the church right now to obtain and fill out a form, feel free to contact Roni Hauser @ 715-398-3680, and she will take the information needed to fill out a form, you can also email clcoffice320@gmail.com your information.

Pastor Nominations

As part of the process of calling a new Pastor, if any member knows a LCMS pastor that he or she thinks would be a good fit for our church, he or she can submit that Pastor's name for consideration. Just get an Nomination Form from Roni or any member of the Call Committee.

Church Council Minutes

December 10, 2020

Members Present: Len Campbell, Wayne Ploetz, Pastor Schield, Don Hauser and Sharyn Vengrin

Call to order: Len Campbell

Opening Prayer: Pastor Schield

Call for additional agenda items: None

Approval of Minutes: Wayne made the motion to accept the October 8, 2020 minutes with one correction and Sharyn Seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried

Pastor's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: Checking Account Balance: \$18,846.67 Don made the motion to accept Checking Account Balance as written. Sharyn seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wayne made the motion and it was seconded by Don that we made a Transfer of \$16,000.00 From Christ The King Savings to General Checking Fund. Request \$16,000.00 from LCEF. To repay The Christ The King Savings Account. This will enable us to make payments to: District/Synod Support, Three Sponsored Missionaries and Full Insurance Premium Payment.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board of Deacons: No Report

Board of Trustees:

Cut Brush after freeze -up: Reminder to call Badger Excavating

Sealcoating and Striping the parking lot (Reminder only).

Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:

Old Business:

We are looking into the use of undesignated mission funds for donations to Project 24, Orphan Grain Train and Military Bible sticks.

The Damiano Center is still not asking for volunteers to work the soup kitchen; however, they are accepting clothing donations by appointment only. Jean and Pete will deliver clothing to the Damiano Center that is currently being stored at the church.

Stewardship Sunday is November 15. Financial commitment forms have been returned to those that submitted financial forms last year for their review in filling out the 2021 financial commitment form. The 2021 financial commitment and time and talent forms have been placed in members mailboxes.

Members donated \$210 to CASDA at a door offering on October 18 was sent to CASDA.

New Business

We discussed the Guardian Angel Program, which is coming up in January 2021. Because of the pandemic, it will be difficult to continue the program as we have in the past. We will not be having a potluck brunch this year; however, we will put out Guardian Angel forms for members to participate again this year. Forms can be filled out, submitted, then will be pulled out of a "hat" will be matched up with another participating member. The person picking the name out of the hat will not be participating and will remain neutral in the process. The form of the person who will be prayed for in 2021 will then be placed in a sealed envelope and placed in the appropriate participating members mailbox.

Other Business:

Four board members viewed the Lutheran Hour Ministries workshop video called "Spiritual Conversations" workshop. This video centered around how we as Christians can prepare to talk to other Christians and non-believers about God and our beliefs.

Next Meeting: 5:00pm, Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Board of Education: No Report

Memorial Committee: Same

Endowment Committee: Same

Memoriam Garden: Resting

Old Business: None

New Business: Appoint Don Hauser to Trustees through July 31, 2021. Wayne made the motion that we appoint Don Hauser to the Trustees. Sharyn seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

2021 Budget Review: Don made the motion that we accept the budget as written. It was seconded by Sharyn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Christmas Bonuses. This was discussed. Sharyn made the motion that we give a bonus to both Liz and Roni. It was seconded by Wayne. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion of 1 or 2 Check Signers for NBC. Will remain the same. We will have two.

Update of New Pastor Call: Mike Miller presented a summary of the call update.

We have notified the District of our need to call a new pastor and the Circuit Visitor, Pastor Franck, is our advisor for the call process.

With Pastor Franck's help, we have verbally agreed with Pastor Jerry Bernecker to have him serve as our temporary Pastor for the duration of the vacancy. Pastor Schield will remain with us also during the vacancy.

Unrestricted Mission Fund Use:

Motion was made by Sharyn and seconded by Wayne that we use the unrestricted mission funds for:

\$200 for local (Super one) gift certificates, distributed by Pastor(s)

\$200 for Military Bible Sticks

\$200 for Orphan Grain Train

\$135 for Project 24.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Requests to use Fellowship Hall: None

Voters Meeting December 13 following the Service.

Next Council Meeting: 5:30 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 14, 2021

Adjournment-Lord's Prayer

Voter's Meeting

December 13, 2020

Call to Order: Len Campbell

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kirk Schield

Minutes from September 20, 2020 Voter's Assembly:

Motion was made by Wayne Ploetz and seconded by Mike Kramer that we accept the minutes as presented.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

Member Transfers and Releases:

Transfers Out: None

Transfers in: None

Treasurer's Report: Wayne covered key points on the December Treasurers Report and Balance Sheet ending December 31, 2020. He will transfer \$16,000 from the Christ The King account to the LCEF account, and then repay the Christ The King account from the LCEF savings. Motion was made by Mike Kramer and Seconded by Millie Derick that we accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Board and Committee Reports: These reports are published in the monthly newsletter.

Old Business: Donations from members of the congregation for the new playground equipment has been fully recouped. Thank you to all that donated in support of the new playground equipment.

New Business:

Consider Approval of the 2021 Budget: Wayne presented the 2021 Budget to the members. He went over the budget line by line and answered questions.

Motion by Don Hauser and Seconded by Lois Teich to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Update on New Pastor Call: Notes from Mike Miller, Chair, Call Committee:

- We have notified the District of our need to call a new pastor, and the Circuit Visitor, Pastor Franck, is our advisor for the call process.
- With Pastor Franck's help, we have agreed with Pastor Jerry Bernecker to have him serve as our temporary Pastor for the duration of the vacancy. Pastor Schield will remain with us also during the vacancy.
- We have begun the process of completing a Congregational Self-Study. Surveys were sent out and many were completed and returned. These have been summarized and entered in the Self-Evaluation for submission to the district. The document is complete, subject to final review. It will be submitted in the next couple of weeks.
- If any congregation member knows of a pastor that he/she feels would be a good fit for our church, he/she should fill out a Nomination of Pastor for Consideration by Christ Lutheran Church, Superior for the Office of Pastor form and return it to the Call Committee or to the church secretary. The form can be requested from the church office. These forms will be submitted to the District with the Self-Evaluation.
- After the Self-Evaluation and the nomination forms are submitted to the District, we wait for the District to send us a list of candidates. This usually takes 2-4 weeks and varies in number, hopefully around 10-15. The list shall be available to members of the congregation.
- Then the Call Committee narrows the list to 3 to 6 candidates for consideration. Those not selected for the short list will be held in reserve in case the Call Committee decides to reopen the official list for further nominations.

That where we are at to this point.

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: February 14, 2021

Stewardship

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God

has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

Opportunities to Serve

Altar Guild. Men and women who prepare the sacred vessels for Holy Communion and who care for the altar and its liturgical appointments. Their service beautifies the sanctuary and the sacred space in which God's people worship. They serve as assistants to the pastor and function under the authority of the Board of Deacons.

Communion Assistant and/or Worship Assistant. This opportunity is open to qualified men who would receive instruction from the pastor and/or choral director to assist in parish liturgies and/or distribution of Holy Communion. They function under the authority of the Bd. of Deacons.

Grounds Maintenance. A beautiful and well-maintained building and grounds says "this is a church that cares." Who plants and cares for our flowers, who cuts the lawn, cleans the building, shovels the snow? Our members do. Speak to any member of our Board of Trustees to volunteer.

Prayer Chain. Members intercede to the Lord on behalf of others in need.

Quilting. Hands on sewing of quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and used around the world. Meet on Tuesdays from 9am – noon.

Shut-In Visitation. Currently a member brings meals once a week to some. There is also opportunity for regular friendly visits to be made to one or more people.

Usher. This is a service of hospitality to members and guests. Ushers assist worshippers in our services of worship.

Lutheran Witness

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine about you and your church. Each month it brings you a wealth of information that's important to you as you grow in faith and service to the Lord Jesus. You can receive the Witness in your home for the cost of \$22.56 for eleven issues. You will find a sign-up form on the office door. When you sign up make your check payable to Christ Lutheran Church and

leave it in the office. Any questions please contact the office. Sign up by January 20.

Annual Reports

Another year has passed and it is time for me to start compiling the Annual report. I will need everyone's reports by January 17. I will accept reports in whatever form they come in, but it saves me some time if they can be emailed or saved to a flash drive or disc or typewritten. Thank you for your work.

Youth Upcoming Events

All 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to attend any or all events! We study God's Word in a variety of ways – music videos with today's current Christian artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that relate to the youth! Join us! Bring a friend!

Leaving for Warmer Climate?

Take me with you! Kidding, sort of, but if you are one of our 'snowbirds' and you want to keep up on what's happening in your church you can get the newsletter online at our web site: christlutheran-superior.org. If you need your contribution statement mailed to you please remember to leave your winter address with the secretary.

The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please double check that all doors are locked, all lights are turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats are turned down before your group leaves the church. Thank you!

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

January Birthdays

- 1 Kathryn Swanson
Erik Lull
- 5 Jan Larson
Joan Pince
Jonathan Stumpf
- 7 Kathy Field
Kirk Schield
- 8 Eric Mack
- 9 Martin Pfeil
- 10 Brandon Derick
Cody Krause
- 12 Christine Stumpf
- 14 Simon Pfeil
- 18 Chris Kirchoff
Joshua Stumpf
- 19 Matthew Vengrin
Trevor Derick
- 20 Jeremy Winans
Quinn Frost
- 24 Makayla Pitt
Stacie Kirchoff
- 26 Deborah Klein
- 27 Kristin Kroll
- 28 Ricky Krause
Susan Krause
- 30 Andy Anderson
Elijah Kroepflin
- 31 Jacie Benesch

Online Information

LC-MS Website
lcms.org

Minnesota North District Website
mnn.lcms.org

Lutheran Witness Online
www.lcms.org

Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

LC-MS Synod Radio Stations
www.kfuo.org—or—classic99.com
www.issuesetc.org

**Information on Pregnancy, Parenting
& Adoption**
getrealwithyourself.com