



# The Beacon

May 2021

Christ Ev. Lutheran  
Church

320 N 28<sup>th</sup> St E  
Superior, WI  
54880

Office Phone  
715.398.3680

Web Site  
[Christlutheran-  
superior.org](http://Christlutheran-superior.org)

## Divine Worship Services

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

## Bible Study

Sunday - 10 a.m.



On April 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, we began a seven-week sermon series on the topic of prayer. The first week focused on some of the basic elements about prayer. Within the time frame of a sermon, there's only so much that one can cover. Any good student of the Bible knows that there are always additional points and thoughts that can be brought out on any given Biblical topic.

One of the members of Christ Lutheran asked me if I was familiar with one of Luther's many, many sermons □ specifically, one that discussed "The Five Requirements of True Prayer". He actually emailed me a copy of that sermon. As are most of Luther's sermons, it was enjoyable to read. It brought out some thoughts that amplify and add to what was brought out in my sermon. Here are three of the better ones.

Luther talked about how we should not expect God to answer our prayer in our way or in our time frame. Luther writes: *"leave all to Gods' own will, wisdom and almighty power. Then confidently and cheerfully await the answer, **not even wishing to know how and where, how soon, how long, and through whom.** God's divine wisdom will find far better ways and measures, time and place, than we can devise, even should we perform miracles. So, in the Old Testament, the children of Israel all trusted in God to deliver them while yet there was no possible way before their eyes, nor even in their thoughts; then the Red Sea parted and offered them a way through the waters, and suddenly drowned all their enemies (Exodus 14). We should know that we are too finite to be able to name, picture or designate the time, place, way, measure and other circumstances for that which we ask of God. Let us leave that entirely to Him, and immovably and steadfastly believe that He will hear us."* Those comments show the degree to which we should trust in God to take care of things!

A second comment comes from Luther's reminder that God has commanded us to pray to Him. Luther writes: *"Had God not told us to pray, and pledged Himself to hear us, none of His creatures could ever, with all their prayers, **obtain so much as a grain of corn.** From this, then, there follows that no one receives anything from God by virtue of his own merit. God's answer comes by virtue of the divine goodness alone, which precedes every prayer and desire, which moves us, through His gracious promise and call, to pray and to desire in order that we may learn how much He cares for us, and how He is more ready to give than we are to receive."*

Finally, Luther talks about how we should pray with confidence. He writes: *"If one prays doubting that God will hear him, and only offers his prayers as a venture, whether it be granted or not granted, he is guilty of two wicked deeds. The first is, that he, himself, makes his prayer unavailing and he labors in vain. For Jesus says: 'Whoever will ask of God, let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubts is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord' (James 1: 6-7). The other wicked deed is, that he regards his most true and faithful God **as a liar and an unstable and doubtful being;** as one who cannot or will not keep His promise; and thus, through his doubt he robs God of His honor and of His name of truth and faithfulness."*

Reading those comments, it's no surprise that Luther was so influential both in his day and throughout history!

Pastor Jerry Bernecker

## Summer Worship Schedule

I know that we have been following our 'summer' schedule for over a year now but thought it is a good reminder of service times etc.

### Sundays

9:00 a.m. Divine Service  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study

### Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Divine Service

Be faithful in your summer worship. The summer preaching schedule sees a shift in focus from the life of Christ (as found in winter and spring) to our life in Christ—i.e. daily Christian discipleship. Missing summer services deprives you of much practical application in Christian living. So this summer, no vacation from God. After all, what if God took a vacation from you?

## Voter's Meeting & Congregational Call Meeting

May 16, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Election of officers and board members.

## Congregational Call Meeting

The Congregational Meeting to elect a new pastor will take place on Sunday, May 16 in conjunction with the voter's meeting. The call committee will present information on the final 3 candidates. Congregation members who are present at the meeting will then vote to elect the one to whom the position will be offered. Please attend this important meeting. Per our own constitution, you must be present to cast a vote. Absentee ballots and proxy votes will not be accepted.

## Office Hours & Vacation

The church office hours are now posted on the office door. I will be here mostly in the afternoons. I have accepted a lead position in my job at YMCA so will be there in the mornings. I have no plans on leaving Christ Lutheran, I love this job, but I will have different hours here each week depending on my hours at the YMCA.

I will also be on vacation from May 21 – May 30, 2021, so there will be no one in the office.

## Church Council Minutes

April 8, 2021

**Members Present:** Jim Lemmerman, Len Campbell, Wayne Ploetz, Don Hauser, Roni Hauser Pastor Bernecker, John Keske, Mike Kramer and Sharyn Vengrin

**Call to order:** Jim Lemmerman

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bernecker

**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:** Everything is going well. Bible study will start this Sunday.

**Treasurer's Report: Checking Account Balance: \$62,941.24.** Sharyn made the motion to accept Checking Account Balance as written. Mike seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Payroll Protection Plan Application update:** We received \$28,935.00.

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Board of Trustees:** Sealcoating and Striping the parking lot (Reminder only)

Outside lighting has new timer installed  
Working on determining the cause of the leak in the women's restroom. Perrault looked at it and determined that the efface does have cracks and holes in it. They caulked what they could. Will watch to see if there may be other issues.

**Board of Deacons:** We may be changing communion to every other week.

**Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:** No meeting.

**Board of Education:** No meeting: Maybe some youth group activities.

**Memorial Committee:** No report

**Endowment Committee:** No change

**Memoriam Garden:** Resting

**Old Business:** Call Committee Update: The Call Committee has narrowed the list of candidates for the position of Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church to three pastors. Next week the Call Committee will interview these three candidates. The results of these interviews, along with detailed information on each candidate will be then summarized in time for our congregational meeting for the purpose of electing the one to whom we will offer the position, we anticipate that this meeting will be scheduled sometime in May. We ask that everyone continue to pray for God's continued guidance as we move forward toward our goal of electing our new pastor!

### New Pastor Salary/Benefits/Housing Discussion

Wayne provided detailed Compensation and Insurance Information for the new Pastors.

**New Business:** Church Secretary: Roni will be changing her hours due to a new Lead position at the "Y". They will be posted on her door.

**Spectrum Internet and Phone:** Options were presented. It was decided to choose option 2. We will now have only 1 line.

Officer/Board Member Nominations: Len presented the list of nominations.

### **Requests to use Fellowship Hall:**

Kathy Field, member of our congregation, requests to use the fellowship hall on Saturday, June 5, 12-5 p.m. for a shower. Mike made the motion and it was seconded by Len that we grant the use of the Fellowship Hall to Kathy Field on June 5, 2021. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Other: Voter's Meeting scheduled for Sunday May 16, 2021 following the service

Next Council Meeting: 5:00 p.m., Thurs., May 16, 2021  
Adjournment-Lord's Prayer

### **Stewardship**

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How

could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).

### **Youth Upcoming Events**

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Attention All Graduates**

If you know someone graduating from college, or high school please contact Roni at 715-398-3680 so the names can be listed in the bulletin

### **My Savior Lives Northland LCMS Service of Worship for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6.**

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Hour Ministries (starting at 10:00 a.m.). MSL Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings as sometime the program is moved to a different channel due to programming conflicts on NBC.

Checks should be made to: MSL Northland  
Please send contributions c/o:

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
2012 East Superior Street  
Duluth, MN 55812

## 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](http://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](mailto:clcoffice320@gmail.com)

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Missy Mormann
3	Ryan Lull Lois Teich
4	Michael Stumpf
5	Mary Hannula Edward Sielaff
6	Gloria Meier
7	Lori Flynn Meghan Janicki
8	Michael Flynn William Harkabus Georgia Walsh
9	Ronald Ahola
10	Erin Filteau Rebecca Noble
11	Silas Lull
13	Hailey Jacobson Bob Blomquist Jason Pahlen
14	Arthur Pfeil
15	Harriet Barnard Tom Vengrin
17	Repeka Tuinei
18	Mickey Sternberg
19	Lorraine Robinson
20	Nancy Doane Jonah Kroeplin Katerina Pfeil
22	Samuel Kroeplin
23	Ashley Harkabus
24	Brent Winans Taylor Leuthner
26	Samuel Stenroos Sandy Kari Wendy Schultz
27	Jeffrey Allen Jon Pahos
28	Claudia Grenier
29	Lukas Fudally Matt Pfeil
30	Donna Dittbrender Pastor Schoessow
31	Ashley Swanson