



March 20, 2020

All Worship Services, including Lenten Services, are cancelled at Christ Lutheran. The Campus buildings are closed for use by local organizations. We will let you know when things are up and running again!



From Pastor Mary

Dear Church, Dear Families:

Well, this is a different way of life, a different way of being church, as the realities of the global COVID-19 illness come home to Hilton Head and to Christ Lutheran. We're all learning what it means, how to function, how to be isolated, how to help each other along the way. The church confesses a boots-on-the-ground faith and we are always on the front lines at the crossroads of struggle and grace. Today is no different. This is the season in which we find ourselves. We don't know what's around the bend or how long this road is. Your congregation is working to be a partner in stopping the spread of the disease while seeking to comfort those who will be most effected by social distancing.

We continue to encourage you to make great use of your church directory. Use those phone numbers and addresses to be in touch with each other. I am working along with others in our church to monitor what is happening on the island to support the poor and hungry. Some programs are shutting down, but most are finding new ways to serve. Those with food insecurity may increase as hourly workers are impacted and as schools remain closed. By the beginning of next week, I hope to have more information to share with you about what is needed and how you can get those things to us.

If you are receiving this weekly email, then you have the technology and devices to make good use of email and our website. The website is newly renovated and working well. Go there once a day

of email and our website. The website is newly renovated and working well. Go there once a day during this time apart to stay informed.

Before each Sunday and before the days of Holy Week, you can expect to see a devotional video from me as well as Bible readings and prayers. We will be working to maintain our Lenten discipline and to observe the upcoming Holy Days and Easter in the best ways we are able. Plans and ideas may change along the way, but we will keep you informed.

Over the next week, I hope to prepare the series I was doing on the Apostles' Creed on Wednesday nights and format it for study on our website. It will be in four or five parts. We also recorded the Holden Evening Prayer Service last Wednesday and hope to have that on our website too for you to use on Wednesday evening or whenever you need to hear it and sing it.

It might interest you to know that Martin Luther lived through The Black Death plague and did his own pastoral and theological thinking about how a person should respond and especially how pastors and city officials should perform. Here's a quote from Volume 43 page 132 of Luther's Works in which his letter to Pastor John Hess titled "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" is recorded. Here's how Luther advised folks to approach things:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

Stay well. Stay in touch. Remain in prayer.

Pastor Mary

Our Prayers and Sympathies to the family and friends of Barbara Barclay who died on March 9, 2020. Her husband, David Gayona, notified us that Barbara died after a long illness. She was 70 years old. Barbara's cremains will be taken back to Minnesota where her mother still lives. Any funeral services will take place there. Peace to her memory!

Encouragement from Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director

I know, it is hard to find anything positive in the crisis we all are living right now. Covid-19 is very contagious and though about 80% of infected people will have mild symptoms, the mortality rate is 0.6% to 4% (science is not of one opinion yet).



It is time to hunker down and limit social contact as much as possible. This "hunkering down" sounds great for about a week, then it can become very challenging because we are social beings. We miss seeing our friends and families, eat out, be out and socialize.

For my Ben, senior year was supposed to be his year! Instead he lost his dad to pancreatic cancer and is now facing a "cancellation of the rest of his senior year", it is questionable that the Class of 2020 will end the way it is supposed to be; with Prom and graduation and graduation parties. This is tough! This is unprecedented! He was robbed of his senior year, like pretty much all classes of 2020 worldwide.

We will keep a strict routine. Getting up in the morning, working out (not in the gym but in the fresh HHI air/beach), he will do his online school work, I will keep up with my church responsibilities via phone and PC as much as possible. In the afternoon we will tackle other needed tasks, like yard work or handling estate stuff. We will keep personal social contacts to a minimum. Not because we are likely to get sick, but because we can carry the virus to other vulnerable people. We do not want to be responsible for someone else getting seriously sick. It was very hard for Ben when I told him he should not go to the gym anymore or socialize with many friends. Where should all that youthful energy go?

So where now in all of this is the positive?

From the perspective of a spiritual director, it is time to listen. To quiet down, to contemplate, to be silent. You can either practice deep listening to your spouse or other family members, or, in case you are alone at home, you can deeply listen to yourself. What is going on inside of you? Do you hear a myriad of confusing or fearful thoughts running through your mind? Are you aware of them? Are you aware of how your thoughts make you feel?

If you deeply listen to a family member or friend, what are you hearing? Behind the words? Is their worry? Fear? Hope?

Are you able to hear God's voice in all of this? Is there a reassurance in your faith that God is in this? That God has got you? Can you sit in silence and try to quiet your mind? Can you feel that the thoughts you have are not you? That hiding behind your thoughts is your true self, a self that is grounded in and made of lovea love that is and comes from God?

Being forced out of the busyness of life can be a blessing! It grants you time to deeply connect with God. That can be one of the most rewarding experiences of life.

In case you find it hard to quiet your mind, like many of us do, you can try to read Bible passages (not too long, e.g. Philippians 4:1-8 or) and then contemplate about what you just read, how did it make you feel? Keep rereading the passage, possibly out loud if that helps you to focus. Can you bring the thoughts that come up to paper? Journaling or drawing/painting?

There are also great guided meditation resources out there where you listen to a calming voice about different topics. That too can help you with halting your racing mind.

You can contact me anytime if you'd like more information, resources or an ear that's trained to deeply listen to you!

Peace, Silke

CLC IN WEEKLY PRAYER



We are still offering a contemplative prayer time every Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at CLC, outdoors! Come for a time of silence, prayer, meditation and an opportunity to start the week by focusing on God in our challenging times. Please bring your own lawn or beach chair.



God provides answers to our prayers. Please pray for:

- Steve Bassford
- Emily Caudle
- Bob Harding
- Donna Putrino
- Lois Rockefeller
- Sandy Heins
- Ron (friend of David & Tami Kuhlmann)

Please use the Blue Cards in the Pew Racks to forward a prayer concern or update to the office.

CONNECTED - SPIRITED CONVERSATIONS



THE DIALOGUE IS ON

CONNECTED is now on lenten hiatus until April 22,
when we will tentatively resume our spirited conversations!
We finished our series on The Refugee Crisis and will be coming forward with an action plan soon!
Stay tuned!

St. John's Lutheran in Nashville needs your support!

As you well know, It was destroyed by the tornado on March 3. This congregation will continue to be in our prayers throughout this Lenten season. Your staff and lay leaders also feel called to invite our congregation to collect a Love Offering for this congregation. If you write a check, please write in the memo line: St. John's. If you are giving cash, use one of the envelopes in the pew and mark it appropriately. As residents on and visitors to HHI, we know the realities of natural disasters and we have been the beneficiaries of the compassion and generosity of other congregations when we stood in harm's way. Thank you in advance for any gifts you can offer.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

What a week this has been! On Sunday, Governor Henry McMaster led a press briefing announcing the closing of all South Carolina Schools and urging caution among residents in their daily activities. As the Coronavirus confirmed cases increase, more restrictions are being implemented.

As with any organization, the leadership of Christ Lutheran Church has been diligent in prayer and discernment of appropriate actions we should take to contribute to the health and safety of our community. Plans are also in place to monitor developments and keep you informed.

*The Executive Team met on Tuesday and made the decision to suspend worship services and all use of our Campus Buildings by all outside organizations until further notice.

*Executive Team will touch base twice weekly via conference call.

*The Council met via conference call to share the status of various aspects of our Church and offer support.

*Council will continue to meet weekly until the crisis is behind us.

As we weather the storm together, please continue your financial support of CLC. You may mail your contribution to our office (mailbox is checked daily) or you can give online at clchhi.org.

Following are messages from Council Members regarding ministry teams in our Church family.

Blessings to all, Kathy Reynolds

Congregational Care

Congregational Care is a ministry that provides support for individuals and families who need a cheery get-well card, a warm prayer shawl, a phone call, a ride to church or an appointment, a warm meal, or a heart-felt prayer for a loved one. During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, we need to be in touch with all those we care for in any way that we can. How can we best do this? The Congregational Care Ministry can help!

- Email Pastor Mary at mwanderson140@gmail.com with any names of church members, family members or friends that are in need of our outreach through a phone call, prayers, a card or a meal. There will be an enormous need in our community in the upcoming weeks and we can help!
- If you know someone who needs a cheery card with a note of encouragement, please contact Ann and Doug Hammes at dlhamnes@gmail.com
- If you know someone who is in need of prayer for anything, please contact Tom and Sandy Martin at 843-707-1939 or tomm42@netzero.net
- If you know someone who needs a prayer shawl, please contact Alice Graeb at 740-298-1086.
- If you know anyone who needs transportation, a meal, is homebound and in need, or just needs to talk, please contact Susie Fidler at ksfid@hotmail.com
- The Executive Committee and the Council will be working with Pastor Mary to reach out to anyone in need. Please do not hesitate to let us know of anyone who we can help.

What can you do? Take a few minutes to call someone who may need a friendly call or card, check in on those who are alone and may be feeling very overwhelmed.

Thank you all for your kindness and caring- may we all feel the Holy Spirit move within us and to our fellow man.

God Bless,
Susie Fidler
908-451-9063

Service Ministry

The Service Ministry team will continue to reach out to those we serve, (Backpack Buddies, Deep Well, Family Promise, and St James soup kitchen) when we can, in ways that are appropriate. Please continue to read the weekly newsletter for updates. We need to stay safe, but know that there are many less fortunate, vulnerable members of our community who continue to need our help! Stay safe, God Bless!! Leslie Heavener

Worship and Music

These are days of uncertainty and concern for others. Our church family is uppermost in our thoughts and prayers and for this reason we will not have services for a while. However during this time, we can gain strength by reading Christ Lutheran's website to stay informed and also to read the devotions provided by Pastor Mary. When it is safe and possible for services to begin, the Worship and Music Team will be there to serve.

Blessings and prayers for all. Stay safe and healthy.

Phyllis Rowe

Worship and Music Team

Fellowship Ministry

Simply put, Fellowship means "getting to know you." And it is hard to imagine being social when you are not supposed to see anyone.

But now is the time to go into full social mode.

For us at Christ Lutheran, we are facing an unprecedented situation, at least in most of our lifetimes. Consider that during World War II, many churches, synagogues and cathedrals in London were closed because such a large group of worshipers would be an enticing target. We are facing an enemy that is equally deliberate and seemingly as random in its choices.

In this time of Lent, we are intended to use this time to get to know Jesus better. To become more like Jesus.

Many of us choose to do something like giving up chocolate or alcohol for six weeks. Nice, but it really does not accomplish much of anything. Most of us revert to our old habits by noon on Easter Sunday.

My wife proposed something more significant and impactful: that we give up something every day for 40 days, such as discarded clothing or anything that we no longer use that would benefit a charity. I have friends who are using this time to read books, make repairs around the house, or take lessons on-line for a skill they always wanted (I am learning the banjo, much to my wife's chagrin).

As the John Donne poem says "No Man is an Island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." Among our congregation and our community, we know people who are shut in. And now are even more isolated. Now is absolutely the best time to call, email or try

Facetime. Get to know someone. Let them know that you are thinking of them. That they are connected. Show someone that Jesus loves them.

I close with an expression of Hope: worry is the absence of Hope, but concern is a sign of preparation. Cardinal Timothy Dolan made an interesting point on Monday: the term, "Let not your heart be troubled" appears in the Bible 365 times. One for each day of the year :)

Blessings, and we hope to see you all by Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Kirk Taylor

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Facilities Update

As our Church Buildings and Sanctuary are temporarily closed, we are taking this opportunity to do a deep clean and disinfecting wipe down of all hard surfaces. We don't know when the Governor or Federal authorities will lift the ban on people gathering in numbers greater than 10 people, but it will be lifted at some point and we want to ensure our Church is ready for an inspirational gathering at the first opportunity.

If you want to donate disinfectant wipes, paper towels or bleach that we can use to make effective disinfectant, please send me an email and I will either meet you at the Church or advise where you can leave the supplies.

So that Christ's Loyal Chefs will be prepared when we once again begin our fellowship dining events, we are taking kitchen inventory of supplies. I'll publish the list of items needed to fill in the gaps soon.

And, Chefs we just had the Dishwasher repaired so that will be a blessing to those who help us clean up after events!


Until we gather again please be safe, check in on your loved ones and fellow CLC members and pray while you are washing your hands!

Blessing,
Gary Reynolds
garyreynolds.rdg@gmail.com

CLC PRESCHOOL

**In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Order
on March 15, 2020 to close all schools**

Christ Lutheran Preschool is closed until further notice.

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