



The Bridge

April 17, 2020

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

This Sunday's Worship Services on line and through Zoom

CLC HHI Sunday Worship

Apr 19, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99092391392?pwd=SIzGbjVUdUE4QVVUOGJSclzN3NTZz09>

Meeting ID: 990 9239 1392

Password: 876438

You will need the password to access every Zoom meeting.



From Pastor Mary

Dear Church,

Joyous Eastertide! I've enjoyed a week at home with family in Columbia. I hope the terrible storm on Monday didn't affect you too much. Our hearts go out to those who lost their lives in South Carolina.

I'm sorry that the Easter Day Zoom worship didn't work for some of you. I know you were very disappointed. We've had many people watch the recorded service on our website and remain so grateful that this platform for church communications is doing so well. We believe we have discovered the problem with last Sunday's login to Zoom. The link and password for this Sunday is included here and should work. However, systems and connections are getting overwhelmed everywhere. Please don't assume you aren't doing something right or don't understand something if you have problems. It's highly likely the problem isn't you!

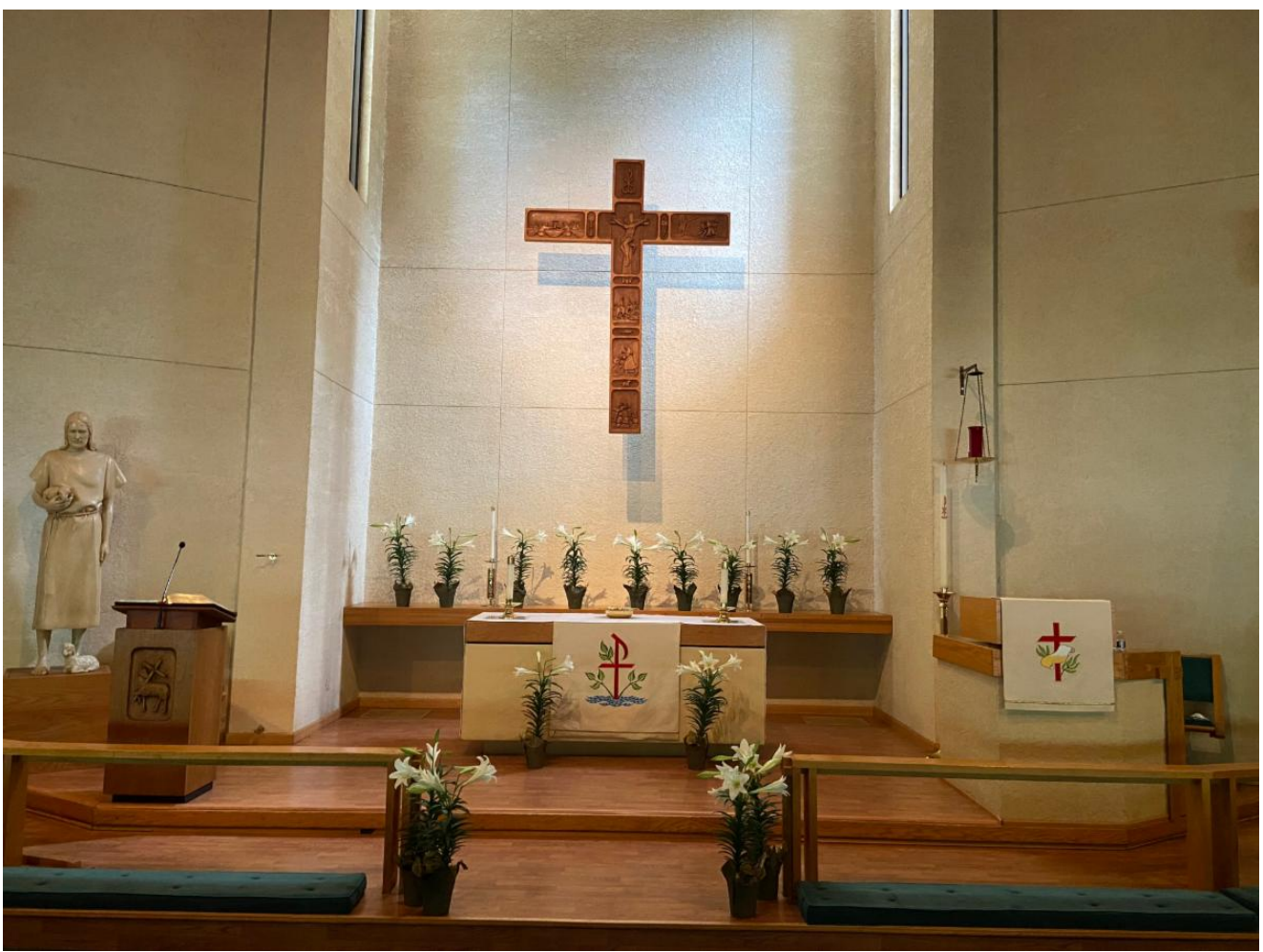
Now that we have been physically distancing for over a month and now that Holy Week and Easter are behind us, I anticipate that the pull to "get this over with" and "get back to normal" will be stronger than ever. Pastorally, I'm also concerned that our sense of loneliness and depression will increase as well. Please be on watch for those sadnesses in your life and reach out for help.

We don't know what "normal" may look like, but since we don't know how long it might be before we can come together for worship, Sunday School, meetings, and fellowship; it's time to settle into a "new normal." We are already doing that to some extent with Council conference call meetings, Zoom worship, confirmation classes, and book group gatherings, etc. We can also think about how to continue with Sunday School classes, committee meetings, Connected, and other faith formation opportunities. All are possible, we just have to stay creative!

Starting this week, I'm going to be thinking more about how to provide some other teaching opportunities on-line. For example, the ELCA has begun the process of putting together a new social message on the question, "What is a faithful Lutheran response regarding citizenship and civic engagement?" This was asked for at the 2019 Assembly back in August. We were just sent a draft of this message statement and the ELCA is asking for our feedback on it. I'll be looking for ways for us to do this together and complete the survey.

In this joyful Eastertide, we are strengthened in the good news that Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia, y'all!

Stay strong. Remain prayerful. Christ is with us.
Pastor Mary



EASTER SUNDAY MORNING!

Encouragement from Silke Pyrlík, Spiritual Director

"Now is not the time for fear.
Now is not the time for blame...
Now is the time to remember
that our lives are not just about
us as individuals and our
immediate families. We expand,
we grow, we transform for the
sake of the world and all her
beings, big and small. **The
choices we make are for all,
not just for ourselves.**"

~ NATHAN BETTGER,
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR / CHAPLAIN



**He is risen! He is risen
indeed!**

After death comes life!
After loss comes hope!

Hopeful greetings from the home office!

After my admittance last week that it might be grief; the feeling of pain, fear, anger, irritation, impatience, disorientation, I used the week after Easter to feel into this added grief.



I actually re-watched the movie "Contagion" to see how I feel about it today. And wow, it is so accurate, as if they knew how to predict the future. But of course pandemic specialists have always known that it would go this way. It is a scientifically well researched movie.

So how do I feel about the fact that a disaster movie that I really liked and thought

was fiction actually became reality?

I guess I have to admit that it surprised me, grieves me, and has me deeply in thought.

This week I read in a Spiritual Direction resource about the frailty of life. No kidding! This pandemic really reminds us that life is precious and frail, especially at an older age.

Of course we all know that we will die one day, that's the one thing we all can count on in the future. The only thing we know for sure!

There is one big plus to aging, getting older, becoming more frail... namely that one can and should learn to pull from an inner strength and wisdom that is not the privilege of youth but of age!

I spent a lot of time this week to go within. I prayed more and longer, I sat longer in meditation, I contemplated life and age. (Yes, I admit the big five zero is somewhat intimidating for me. I'm also aware most of you just laughed out loud:-)

Spending time with God always helps me to calm down, to center and to find my inner peace. It restores hope, every single time. I am grateful for the opportunity I am given, as a spiritual director, to spend quite some time reading great spiritual writers, contemplate and being a spiritual companion to my directees.

I get to spend a tremendous amount of time with God just by "doing my job".

After last week's emotionally tumultuous week I appreciated the slower pace of this week. The time to read and pray. I like to pull from my inner strength and I like to train my inner wisdom and intuition. My grief can be soothed by going within, by knowing whose I am, by feeling that I am part of creation, part of the one big picture! By feeling loved, I am calmed and hope springs from within. Hope for life, for healing, for the resurrection of all that is good and worthy.

How about you? Have you found a new, slower rhythm? Do you appreciate the "time off"? Are you using it wisely? Are you building up your inner strength? Can you find your inner calm and wisdom?

One of my directees just mentioned to me that she is contemplating John 17 this week. I recommend it to all of you! Especially this week after HE IS RISEN!

Jesus is praying to his Father on behalf of his disciples. And since we all consider ourselves his disciples, it is a good chapter to contemplate.

May the Peace be with you, always!

Silke

CLC IN WEEKLY PRAYER



We are still offering a contemplative prayer time every Monday at 9:30 a.m.

CLC's prayers warriors came up with the insight that the church of course is not empty but has been deployed in times of need!

If you would like to be included in the prayer session, please text Silke at 843-298-2823 and she will add you to the group text.

Listen to our "fight song" here: [Go light your world](#)



God provides answers to our prayers. Please pray for:

- Steve Bassford
- Emily Caudle
- Bob Harding
- Otto Orzech
- Lois Rockefeller (surgery has been delayed)
- Sandy Shackelford
- Sandy Heins
- Ron (friend of David & Tami Kuhlmann)

Please send prayer requests to Susan Fidler at kssid@hotmail.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Breaking News! We received notification today that the Payroll

Protection Plan Loan for Christ Lutheran Church has been approved! We will keep you posted on the details of this program.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our Church!

Holy Week that culminated on Easter Sunday Christ Lutheran was blessed to receive offerings from US Mail, Tithe.ly, Vanco and Thrivent Choice dollars. Your generosity is so important to keeping our church afloat during this difficult time!

Remember, you can send your contributions to us by any of these three ways:

- By US Mail to:

Christ Lutheran Church
829 William Hilton Pkwy
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

- Donate online at our website clchhi.org by using the "Give" button.
- Donate via Vanco at vancopayments.com

COUNCIL CORNER

Your Church Council meets every Tuesday via Free Conference Call to touch base with each other and keep abreast of items that may need Council's attention.

Our call on April 14 included these topics:

- Troubleshooting the Zoom meeting link for April 19 Worship Service. See information above about the link for this coming Sunday.
- All previously recorded sermons and devotions are available on our website, clchhi.org. Go to the Devotion Resources tab and you will see the option for Previously Recorded Sermons and Devotions.
- Other communication tools such as our Bridge emails, DialMyCalls and Personal Phone calls are working well. If you know someone who has not been reached, please contact Susan Fidler at ksfid@hotmail.com.
- We celebrated your generosity in the weekly offering and your support of the Food Drive on Tuesday!

If there is an item that you would like to submit for Council discussions, please send an email to me at reynoldsglcp@yahoo.com.

Stay safely at home!
Kathy Reynolds
Council President

**FOOD DONATION DRIVE
HOSTED BY SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM**

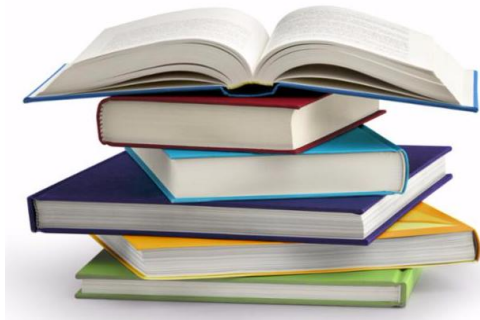
Thank you CLC for all the donations that were brought to the church this last Tuesday!

The Little Free Pantry has provisions to keep it stocked for the near future. Word is spreading that it exists, and items are being taken. The back of my husband's truck was filled with the rest of the donations that we delivered to Deep Well. The pantry manager was thrilled with our delivery. I am sure the Service Ministry Team will repeat this collection in several weeks. The need is so great!



LFP After Food Drive

Thank you,
Chris Wilcox



Book Club

The CLC women's book group will have a ZOOM meeting on Saturday, April 25 at 1:30pm. Thank you John Prange for setting up this online meeting. It will be great to visit with each other and to discuss 2 books: An American Marriage and Finding Dorothy. Call Chris Wilcox if you need details. 843-342-9711

CLC PRESCHOOL

In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Order on March 25, 2020 to close all schools, Christ Lutheran Preschool is closed until April 30.

