



The Bridge

April 25, 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 26, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/92793683175?](https://zoom.us/j/92793683175?pwd=ZUVKQXQ1eG1KdWZBQVt3dUR6VHhVdz09)

pwd=ZUVKQXQ1eG1KdWZBQVt3dUR6VHhVdz09

Meeting ID: 927 9368 3175

Password: 414639

You will need the password to access every Zoom meeting.



The third Sunday after Easter
Service of the Word + Zoom worship
April 26, 2020
Christ Lutheran, Hilton Head, SC

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[Click Here](#) to Download Bulletin for Sunday Worship 4.26.2020



From Pastor Mary

Dear Church,

I hope you made it through another week of isolation. I know it's hard. Some who live alone have said they are having trouble with the lack of physical touch. It's one of the things we take for granted. Pastors have long known that the hug or handshake a person living alone receives at the Sharing of the Peace may well be the only physical contact he or she receives all week. Our community, our physical community, is so vital for us. I'm glad we at least have our Zoom worship times together.

Starting with this edition of The Bridge, we are including a bulletin for the upcoming Sunday worship. This will help us be a stronger community during our worship time. It will also include the links to the music used in the service. You will then have the ability to click on these links and listen to the music throughout the week.

Your congregational leaders are meeting via conference call several times a week during this time of quarantine. I am anxious to see how the early opening of some

states such as ours progresses. Some have asked about when and how we might participate in Holy Communion. We are aware from observing other congregations online or talking to our friends and family that there is a variety of practices out there. I am taking the position of the ELCA and our Lutheran theologians that our best theological advice is to fast from communion during this time until the virus has passed or until there are very safe ways to celebrate the meal together. You might disagree. I also long for that day when we can come together again. I shared in March a small paper on this subject written by theologian Timothy Wengert in Philadelphia. It has helped me focus on the issues. I am including it again in this edition of The Bridge to assist your faithful thinking about the Sacrament of the Table. [Click Here](#) to read "Holy Communion During the Pandemic".

Please also read my report on the conversation between the Department of Health and Environmental Control and faith leaders that took place yesterday. The doctor leading this conversation did make room for home communion with safety precautions taken, such as not entering a home where someone is ill. Home communion where all in the household are currently healthy (at least virus-wise) may be what we need to do next.

In the meantime:

Stay strong. Remain prayerful. Christ is with us!

Pastor Mary

Report of Conference Call with DHEC and Faith Community Leaders

By Pastor Mary

On Friday morning, April 24th, I was on a conference call along with 250 other faith leaders to talk with Dr. Linda Bell, our State Epidemiologist. I appreciated the Department of Health and Environmental Control reaching out to us and for answering the questions we submitted in advance. Here are the major points from that 45-minute conversation. You will not be encouraged by this report. It is not what any of us want to hear. But today, it's the best scientific advice for us. Take a deep breath and read on:

- The curve of infection and death rates is not really leveling out. People will continue to be infected. There is no way to set a timeline for lifting restrictions.
- Absolutely do not attempt to return to corporate worship services. There is no treatment or vaccine, so all we can do is practice social distancing.
- The virus is more contagious than we first thought.
- Even distancing 6 feet apart is probably not far enough.
- Any re-opening of churches cannot even be considered until we have two weeks or more of a significant downward curve AND until we know that our community has been adequately tested.
- It's impossible to pick a date for opening, such as by mid-June.
- Attempting to worship by having people space themselves and wearing masks is not advised because of the length of time this group of people are contained in a space together. Worship isn't a quick in and out of a space such as going to the grocery store or gas station. No spacing is enough.

- The only corporate worship that seemed to be moderately advisable is worship in parking lots with everyone staying in their cars, supported by a good sound system.
- The doctor said she could not give any safe recommendation for sharing communion. She felt that sharing the bread and wine (even into the future) by common cup or by intinction would never be able to be recommended. I suppose it's back to individual glasses as our ancestors did in response to the pandemic 100 years ago.


As this story progresses, we'll keep monitoring the advice of the medical community and encouraging our government leaders to do the same. We are Church together.

A MESSAGE FROM ELCA BISHOP EATON
"It's Okay to Grieve and Hope"
[Click here to view message](#)

Encouragement from Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director



Rest now, e
Papatūānuku
(Mother Earth)



People always said it wasn't possible.
To ground flights and stay home and stop our habits of consumption.
But it was.
It always was.
We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt - and it IS hurting ...
But not as much as you have been hurt.
So be still now.
Wrap your hills around our absence.
Loosen the concrete belt cinched tight at your waist.
Rest.
Breathe.
Recover.
Heal.
And we will do the same.

~ Nadine Anne Hura

It is possible!

Can we go stir crazy and at the same time appreciate what we have?

Confused greeting from the home office!

I think this week is the week where we all feel just really ready for this to be over. We are done. This was ok for as long as it lasted...now let's get back to "normal".

You hear it in the news and on social media all the time, and probably also from your friends and family: "Let's get back to normal." The uncertainty of how long this will last, not knowing how or if or when this will end. Not being able to make plans at all for the rest of 2020 seems impossible to believe.

We all are so far out of our comfort zone that it is hard to know where is up and where is down.

But here we are: yes, it is possible! It is possible to be in this situation. It is possible to live through the greatest challenge many of us have experienced in our lifetime.

- It unbelievably is possible for all classes of 2020 worldwide to not have a regular

senior year, prom or graduation.

- It unbelievably was possible for all Christians to not set a foot in a church building on Easter 2020.
- Ladies, it seems possible to not have our hair or nails done for weeks on end.
- It is possible to not go out pleasure shopping or dining in restaurants or to travel anywhere, not even by car.
- We are experiencing right now that all this is possible, must be possible!

Even though it seems possible it still drives many people crazy.

What can we do with those feeling of "stir crazy", "irritated", "impatient", "going up the walls", "mentally yuck"?

I admit I had moments this week where I started pacing, like a caged tiger, pacing up and down, wondering how to escape? I am lucky that I have an overgrown big yard that didn't see much attention since Manfred's diagnoses almost a year ago... I have a way of working it off.

If you can, get physically active. Move your body, work the yard, walk the dog, run your neighborhood. Do all of this daily. Physical exercise usually helps to clear the mind and calm your racing thoughts.

Do you remember the children book "The little engine that could"? Now is the time, when we start to get impatient and a bit crazy, to affirm that we can. Yes, we can, yes, we can, yes, we can!

Recognize and acknowledge your stirred up, anxious mindset, give it a nod, say "hello crazy mind" and then let it go! I said it before, mindfulness is the key. If you have identified your problem, you have the power to set it free, to let it go.

And then you pray. Ask God to take over, to calm your thoughts, to give you peace, the peace that passes all understanding.

Gratefulness is another wonderful mitigator of a negative, anxious, crazy mindset. Make a list of all the things you are grateful for, start with your health and the health of your loved ones, with the food and shelter you are provided, the beautiful surroundings we live in, and so on....we all have many, many things to be grateful for.

With God, all things are possible! If you need more support, join our powerful Monday morning prayer group at 9:30 a.m., if you crave more individual support, email, call or text me.

May the Peace be with you, always!

Silke

CLC IN WEEKLY PRAYER

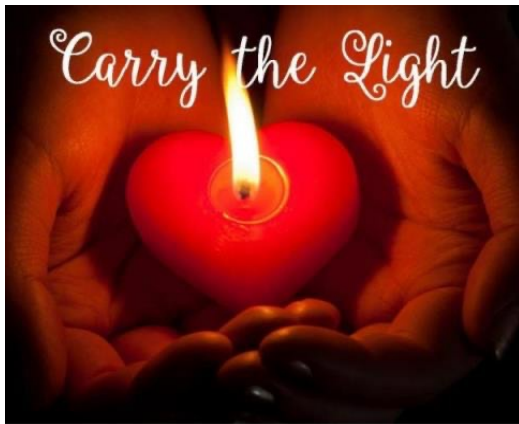


We are still offering a contemplative prayer time every Monday at 9:30 a.m.

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.

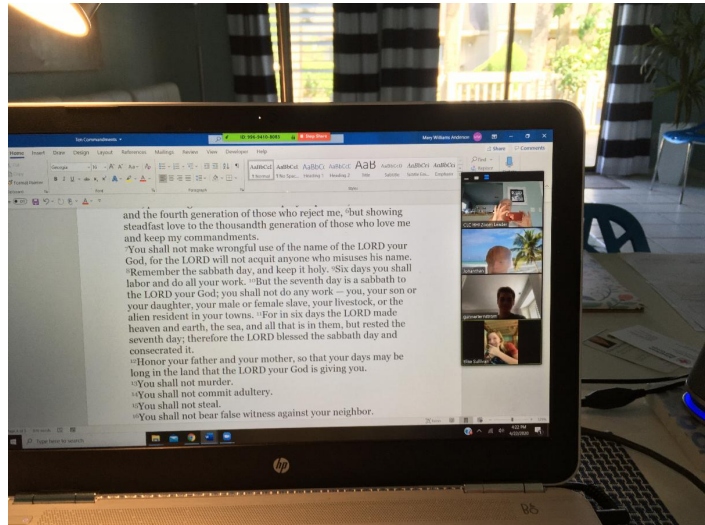
Listen to our "fight song" here:
[Go light your world](#)



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 ksfid@hotmail.com



This week the Confirmation Class zoomed together and started learning more about The Ten Commandments. Do you know why some faith communities (like us) say the 3rd Commandment is "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" and other communities say it's the 4th commandment?

Just ask us!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



We received notification on Tuesday that the Payroll Protection Plan Loan for Christ Lutheran Church has been approved! The funds (\$85,000) were deposited into CLC's bank account on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our Church!

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your Church Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting via Freeconferencecall.com on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:00pm. Following are highlights from that meeting:

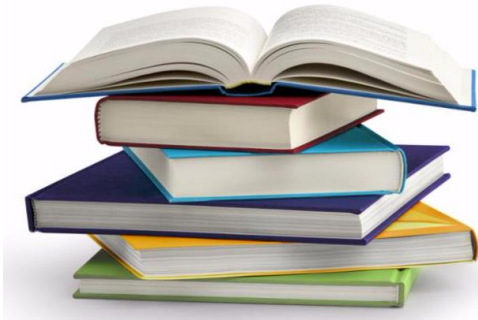
- Pastor Mary reported that the SC Synod Assembly has been moved from May to July 25, 2020 and will take place at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. The primary business of the Assembly is to elect a new Bishop to succeed our current Bishop Herman Yoos who is retiring. A retirement celebration for Bishop Yoos has been postponed to Fall 2020.
- Ron Julseth reported that the Payroll Protection Plan loan had been approved. Funds from the loan (\$85,000) were deposited into CLC's bank account on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. The funds will be used to pay salaries of Church and Preschool Staff and utilities for our facilities for the next two months. Ron will monitor these expenditures carefully to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with PPP guidelines so that the loan will be forgiven.
- Financial support from our congregation during April has been steadily received

through US Mail, Tithe.ly, Vanco and Thrivent Choice. Thank you for your loyal support of our Church.

- SC Synod assistance communication was reviewed and discussed. There are 5 elements of financial assistance described by the Synod:
 - ○ SBA Payroll Protection Plan - Christ Lutheran has applied for and received a loan under the Payroll Protection Plan.
 - ○ Mission Investment Fund is offering Deferred Loan Payments, or Interest Only Loan Payments during this crisis. CLC has not drawn any funds from the Mission Investment Fund at this time.
 - ○ Reducing Mission Support - At this time, CLC does not contribute any funds for Mission Support to the SC Synod. As our financial picture becomes more clear, the Council and A&F team will determine to what level CLC can offer Mission Support for 2020.
 - ○ SC Lutheran Synod COVID-19 Crisis Grant - The SC Synod has a \$300,000 fund to offer grants in the amount of \$1,500 to \$3,000 to congregations in need. In light of CLC's receipt of the PPP loan, Council decided not to apply for a grant at this time.
 - ○ COVID-19 Stewardship Resource - SC Synod recommends a program that is being led by Mike Ward called "Beginning the Cultivating of Generosity Journey". CLC is taking no action on this resource at this time.
- The Call Process to find our next Pastor is top of mind for Council and our Congregation. Next steps were discussed as follows:
 - ○ A Call Committee, comprising 6 to 7 voting members will be formed as soon as possible. If you are interested in servicing as a member of the Call Committee, please contact Kathy Reynolds at reynoldsglcp@yahoo.com.
 - ○ We are exploring ways to conduct a "Spirit Led Time of Renewal" with a representative from SC Synod. This may be held using technology such as Zoom, or in person meetings that are limited in size as restrictions permit. We will keep you informed as plans develop.
 - ○ Pastor Mary will assist in Ministry Site Profile documentation.
 - ○ Please keep Christ Lutheran Church in your prayers as we proceed in the Call Process journey together.
- Ministry Team highlights:
 - ○ Little Free Pantry is serving our neighbors in need daily. Your continued support of items for the Pantry is very much appreciated.
 - ○ Congregational Care calls are being well received. If you know someone who should be contacted or added to our Prayer list, please contact Susan Fidler at ksfd@hotmal.com.
 - ○ Technology and Communication team is being revitalized with new ways to keep in touch with our congregation and to support technology needs of our Church. If you have skills in website maintenance, constant contact email, online meeting capabilities such as Zoom, or technical expertise in computer networking, hardware and software, and a desire to share those skills with CLC, please contact Kathy Reynolds at reynoldsglcp@yahoo.com to volunteer for the team.
 - ○ Properties and Maintenance team needs YOU! If you are interested in

leading this team or in serving as part of the team, please contact Gary Reynolds at garyreynolds.rdg@gmail.com.

In Christ's Service,
Kathy Reynolds
Council President



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 NEWS!

Our Preschool remains closed...but lots of learning is still happening!! Teachers continue to "teach" our students through many different avenues. Stories are read on YouTube, activities are being sent through emails and texts, face time, and even a few drive by visits.


Ms. Silke and Ms. Tami have also been holding weekly chapel time for the children. This week I received a text from Wesley's mother:

"I have always taken my boys to church and made it a priority, and we have read about and talked about Jesus, God, etc their whole lives...but I have been overwhelmed by how much Wesley loves Jesus and knows his stories and teachings. It has literally brought tears to my eyes. I know that so much of this has come from CLP. For the first time today , I found the chapel videos and Wesley literally jumped around clapping. I just want to make sure Silke and Tami know they have helped to create such a Jesus-loving boy. He prays all the time and teaches us about God's love. I know all his teachers have had a hand in it. I'm just in awe! Thanks for sharing the good news with my sweet boy."



Thank you Silke and Tami for helping us teach our children. It DOES make a difference!

**In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's order,
Christ Lutheran Preschool is closed for the rest of the school year.**

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