



## The Bridge

May 12, 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!**



**From Pastor Mary**

Dearest Church:

We are beginning our 9th week of isolation and the 5th week of Easter. Joy, fear, and doubt have always been present in the season of Easter. We feel one more strongly than another depending on our context, what's happening to us. We are all leaning hard into the future, hoping we can set a date for resuming the life we knew at the end of February. But setting a date (such as June 15th for opening church), sets us up for disappointment. We like to plan, we want to know, we want to just get on with it all; but this virus doesn't know a thing about our hopes, our calendars, or the summer vacations we had planned for over a year. We aren't very patient with living a day at a time and letting that be enough. Even as people of faith, we often are a disaster at the "letting go and letting God" philosophy.

As I think about it, this struggle with patience and time is very similar to what I see

in people who are recovering from an illness or injury. Even with all our wonderful tools of medicine, it's hard to hurry up healing. Physical therapy is often painful and takes months. We see progress and have some joy around that, but then we get depressed because it's not fast enough. We look longingly at our golf cart in the garage or our boat at the dock or our bike on the back porch, and we promise these inanimate objects, "In two weeks, I'm going to be back with you, old friend." And then the two weeks pass, and we've only made tiny progress. We go for our next doctor's visits and hear, "Nope, you can't go golfing yet. Come back in six weeks and we'll see how you are."

I often laugh at all the prescription medication commercials on TV with the images that show what good health, better health, looks like. As a person who enjoys biking myself, I've noticed that a large number of these commercials will show that after taking medication X, the afflicted ones can now happily ride their bikes in their neighborhood or on a trail. I can still bike in this pandemic, but I look longingly at some of the restaurants I've come to enjoy, at the movie theaters, and absolutely, I look longingly at our empty sanctuary on Sunday morning. Patience is tough. And because it's tough, temptation comes in to tell us we're stronger than we think, wearing masks is really silly, and that a little patience is fine but too much is overkill.

Right now, is the time we thought for sure all this would be over. The fact that it seems we are looking at more months rather than weeks, I know our patience will wear out even more. So as a faith community, we are looking at ways to stay committed to the required patience while also being creative about how to "be church" and "do church" in this time. We're all learning and changing, we're all letting some things go and doing some holy experiments.

Starting this Sunday, we are planning to begin our communion liturgy again. You have been invited to have some bread and wine prepared in your home before worship begins at 10am on Sunday. To support you in this, I am including two recipes for communion bread that have been time tested. One is a wheat communion bread that I've made for years. The other is a recipe we used at the seminary in Columbia for chapel. It's a gluten-free bread that has been tweaked over the years. It tastes good and doesn't crumble. Our Worship and Music Committee was beginning to experiment with it earlier in the year. We were considering whether it might be a good communion bread for everyone. Shirley Otto had practiced with it and made a wonderful loaf she shared with me. She also brought me all the flours she purchased for the recipe. Some of them are not easy to find. I do have them in my office. If you'd like to use some of them, let me know.

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

**[SOUTHERN GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE](#)**



**Thank you for your faithful contributions!  
We have received offerings for the second week of May. We so appreciate all  
who took the time and effort to send in your contributions in many ways!**

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](http://clchhi.org) by using the "Give" button.
- Donate via Vanco at [vancopayments.com](http://vancopayments.com)

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

Dear fellow disciples,

Your Church Council continues to be in close conversation with each other so that we can respond to the needs of the Church and offer support where needed. Recognizing that we as a Church are in this for the long haul, the following Council schedule is now in place:

- Church Council will meet for regularly scheduled meetings on the Third Tuesday of each month.
- Additionally, Church Council will meet one other Tuesday during the month
- Executive Committee will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- All meetings will take place via [freeconferencecall.com](http://freeconferencecall.com)

At the Church Council conference call that was held on Tuesday May 5, we discussed the Call Process and I had a subsequent conversation with Bishop Yoos about how we might move forward with the Call Process during this pandemic time. Following are steps that we are taking:

- Council has made nominations for potential members for the Call Committee and our Congregation has been asked for volunteers to serve.
- All members who were nominated or volunteered have been vetted to confirm their willingness to serve.
- Council is currently conducting a secret ballot vote to elect six members of the Call Committee via email to Susan Fidler, Council Secretary.
- Results of the vote will be announced at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting on May 19.
- Once the six members of the Call Committee have been determined, Council President will call the first Call Committee meeting and will be available to answer questions and facilitate election of Chair of Call Committee.
- Updates from the Call Committee will be communicated via phone or written report to Council President.
- As part of the Call Process, Bishop Yoos and the SC Synod team will host a "Spirit Led Time of Renewal" ZOOM meeting on June 3 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. All interested parties are invited to participate and ZOOM instructions will be sent out via the Bridge and posted on our website, clchhi.org.
- With input from the Congregation, A Ministry Site Profile will then be completed by the Call Committee, Council, and Interim Pastor.
- Council will approve the Ministry Site Profile.
- Once Call Committee has discerned a candidate that they want to recommend for Christ Lutheran's Permanent Pastor, a Special Council Meeting is called to introduce that candidate to Council.
- With Council's approval, the Congregation will vote to accept the Candidate as Christ Lutheran's Permanent Pastor.

This is a time of renewal and spiritual growth for Christ Lutheran Church. Please keep the Call Committee, Council and our Pastor in your prayers as we all prepare for the Holy Spirit's guidance for our future.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 678-643-6261 or reynoldsglcp@yahoo.com We will keep you informed every step of the way!

Blessings for your continued good health and safety!  
 Kathy Reynolds,  
 Council President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Graduation Sunday**

Mark your calendars for May 24th when we will recognize, bless, and celebrate our two high school graduates, Benjamin Pyrlik and Avery White, and our college graduate, Alyssa White. Immediately following worship all are invited to jump in their cars, drive through the church parking lot, wave and honk your horns at the graduates who will be outside in cap and gown, and drop a card for them in a

basket.

### **Confirmation Update**

In keeping with our original schedule, our Confirmation Group meetings will end in two weeks. We had planned for Gunnar Ternstrom to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st. He and his family have agreed that we will wait until the time when we can all come together in celebration again to have his Rite of Confirmation. Other confirmation camps and servant camps for this summer have also been postponed or cancelled. We grieve the loss of these opportunities but look forward to discovering the new things we might do together when the time is right.

## **CLC PRESCHOOL**

**In compliance with Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Order to close all schools through the end of the school year, Christ Lutheran Preschool is closed until further notice.**

