



The Bridge

December 18, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

We are all aware that the number of COVID positive cases and COVID related deaths are unbelievably high right now, including in our own part of the country. We also announced this week that a family in our congregation is ill with COVID and one in that family had been in the office building as recently as December 11th.

We want to emphasize how vital it is for our community health to abide by the protocols at church that our COVID Response Team put in place and that we have been sharing with all of you.

To step up our safety protocols, the Council decided to begin requiring the following:

- When in any of our facilities, masks must be worn completely covering the mouth and nose. This includes staff working in their offices.
- All who enter the office will have their temperature taken.
- Members of the congregation are encouraged to let the church know if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to the virus, and to let us know who they have recently encountered while at the church.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our members, staff, visitors and friends as safe as possible.

COVID Symptoms Checklist

If you have *come into contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, please go home* and self-quarantine.
Get tested yourself if you become ill.

Some symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- **Fever or chills**
- **Cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **New loss or taste or smell**
- **Congestion or runny nose**

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, ***go home and self-quarantine for 14 days***, and get tested for COVID **ASAP**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND CONCERN!

**The giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup
in the Church Office. Please stop by and pick yours up!**

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA THIS WEEK!
THE DEADLINE IS NEXT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND!
SEE BELOW FOR ORDER FORM**

From Pastor Mary

Dear Church:

Thank you for your expressions of gratitude for my ministry here these past 15 months. I treasure your notes and emails. Once again, COVID interrupts the ways we would normally say farewell. Since we can't gather in full and festive ways, it seems our departure is conducted in smaller pieces. I'm sure I'll be offering my thanks to you through all my communication vehicles so that I reach everybody. We have shared a unique time in the history of our world and of our congregation. God has truly been at work among us, teaching us new things and shaping our ministry like a baker kneading dough. I think we have made a positive impact on one another and for that I am very grateful. I know you think this must have been a difficult time for me because of living away from home and because of the difficulties we have had as a parish in 2020. I wish some things had been different and wish that I had been able to offer some of my gifts that the pandemic prevented. I regret that I didn't get to know many of you more deeply. But, I experienced the joy of working with a passionate and devoted congregation during difficult times. Together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we turned a lot of lemons into lemonade. There was deep learning about our baptismal calls and what God might be up to in this place.

I feel like these months were an intensive Doctor of Ministry program and that we're all successful graduates! This little meme below was recently on the ELCA Clergy Facebook page. The author is a well-loved Episcopal writer, professor and former priest. It spoke to me. I hope it speaks to you.

I look forward to seeing you in the remaining five worship services we will have together over the next nine days.

Peace. Joy. Courage.

Pastor Mary

“Being ordained is not about serving God perfectly, but about serving God visibly, allowing other people to learn whatever they can from watching you rise and fall.”

BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

**Christ Lutheran Church Zoom Worship
Sunday, December 20-Fourth Sunday of Advent
10 AM
Join Zoom Meeting**

Click below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85691010897?
pwd=TXhoZTgrWVlGaFFteXMrOEtPSkNmdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85691010897?pwd=TXhoZTgrWVlGaFFteXMrOEtPSkNmdz09)

Meeting ID: 856 9101 0897
Password: loveCLCHHI

You will need the password to access every Zoom meeting.

Church Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 am via Zoom technology.

Go to our website: www.clchhi.org to view recordings of each Sunday's worship services.

[Click Here for Today's Bulletin](#)

**A CELEBRATION AND FAREWELL
TO PASTOR MARY**

As much as we all do not wish to see Pastor Mary leave Hilton Head and Christ Lutheran, it is time for her to continue to share her gifts with others. At her request, we will be having a “Drive-by” Reception for her where we can express our gratitude and wish her Godspeed.



**Sunday, December 20 from 2 to 4 PM
UNDER THE PORTICO TO HEINRICH HALL
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Pastor Mary's last Sunday with us will be the Sunday following Christmas, December 27. She will be moving back to Columbia at the end of the month. This is

our opportunity to write a note of thanks, give a caring gift or share a special memory with Pastor Mary, who has led us through a very difficult year with optimism and faith in the healing power of our Lord.

***Help us to remember Pastor Mary
with a very special gift to the Preschool!***

In honor of all that Pastor has given to us, we are going to establish a scholarship for the Preschool in tribute to her loving service to Christ Lutheran.

If you wish to donate to this scholarship, please send your donations or drop them off at the office no later than December 18, 2020.

Make checks out to CLC with a notation for Preschool scholarship.

If you have questions, please call Susie Fidler at 908-451-9063 or email at ksfid@hotmail.com.

PASTOR JUNE WILKINS UPDATE

We wanted to let you know that Pastor June Wilkins has officially accepted our call as our new full time Pastor.

Pastor Wilkins will be moving from Columbus, Ohio and has a lot to take care of between now and when she arrives on Hilton Head Island.

She has informed us that her planned start date with us will be February 8, 2021 with her first Sunday worship being February 14, 2021.

Joe Etter
Congregational President

**ADVENT 4 AND
CHRISTMASTIDE**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020 at 10am**

[A Rite of Farewell and Godspeed for Pastor Mary, led by Joe Etter, will be included in The Sending portion of the liturgy.]

**A Farewell Reception for Pastor
Mary December 20, 2-4pm**

Advent 4 Vespers

[This Monday is the longest night of the year as Winter begins. It is also the evening of the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter creating what is called the "Star of Bethlehem" or "Christmas Star." Such a close alignment has not occurred since March 4, 1226. We will celebrate the "stars of night" this evening.]

**The Eve of Christmas
Service of Silent Night**

[This short worship service will take place outside in the parking lot. Worshipers may bring a chair or plan to stand. The service will include: Welcome and Prayer of the Day + The Reading of the Christmas Eve Gospel from Luke 2 + Prayers for the World + Lighting of Hand-held Candles + Singing of Silent Night + The Proclamation of Christmas + Singing of Joy to the World. All depart in joy!]



Festival Christmas Worship at 7:00 pm (via Zoom)

[Festive Christmas music will begin at 6:45. This service will include Holy Communion. Have your home bread and wine ready along with a candle. Worshippers will be encouraged to light a candle at home as Silent Night is played. After the closing hymn, we will spend a few minutes wishing each other a Merry Christmas!]

Poinsettia Pick-Up

December 26, 2020 between 10 am-4 pm

[Those who purchased poinsettias are asked to come by Heinrich Hall this Saturday and pick-up their plants. The doors will be unlocked during these hours. If this is not convenient, they may be picked up the next week Monday-Wednesday during regular office hours.]

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020 at 10am

[This will be a Lessons and Carols service. No sermon. Pastor Mary will offer a few comments before some of the readings. Readers from among those zooming in will be sought in advance. No communion. Worshippers are encouraged to wear their most "impressive" Christmas sweaters.]

The Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2020 at 10am

[This service will be arranged for Christ Lutheran in consultation with the Office of the Bishop. Plans are underway.]

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON OUTDOOR MEETINGS OR WORSHIP](#)



Poinsettias Deadline is Monday, Dec. 21

Please fill out the Order Form and return it to the office along with your payment. You may also pay using the Tithely app by clicking on the "To" button and clicking "Christmas Poinsettia".

You may submit your Order Form on our website (at the bottom of our home page). When you do that you need to also mail in your payment. If you purchased a poinsettia, you may pick it up on December 26 in Heinrichs Hall between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or call the Church Office the following week to pick yours up!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE POINSETTIA ORDER FORM](#)

**Happy Birthday
to Nancy Conder!**

We celebrated during the Christmas lunch for preschool teachers and church staff on Wednesday, Dec. 16.



We are so grateful for these
CLC servants who kept us going

through a difficult year.

**Service Team Donations for Deep Well, the CLC Preschool, the
Thursday Lunch Break and the Little Food Pantry**

**Next Drive By Collection---Monday, January 4, 2021 9:30- 10:30am
(If this date/time doesn't work, drop the items off at the office)**

No additional grocery bags or egg cartons needed---have plenty

Preschool: Glue Sticks, Liquid hand soap, Kleenex
Plastic spoons and forks

Lunch Break: Water, Potato chips in small bags
Healthy granola bars

Little Food Pantry:
Canned fruit, Canned beans
Healthy snacks--individual packages of nuts, pretzels, breakfast bars, granola bars etc.)
Individual meals (Chef Boy R Dee, stews, microwavable meals, hearty soups)
Personal hygiene items (small bottles)
Cleaning supplies (small bottles)
Pasta, White rice bags, Dry beans
Tortillas, Canned pasta sauce
Canned meats/fish, Kleenex

Deep Well Project:
Jelly, Cereal
Oatmeal packets
Grits, Pasta sauce
Hearty soups

Thank You to Wendy's

Special thanks to:

Mr. Bryan Saba, Jr., Franchisee from:

Wendy's in Bluffton, 5846 Guilford
Place, Bluffton, SC 29910
for the donations of cups and spoons
for the January Soup Kitchen.



Sarah DeMaria's mother, Leora Horst
Our nation living with many blessings and much strife
Connie Simon, Bill Putrino, Ted Drilling,
Ron & Beth Ann Julseth

All ill with COVID-19 and their caregivers.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, December 18

Last Day for Preschool--on Christmas Break
Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 20-- Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Zoom Worship Meeting
2:00 to 4:00 pm Pastor Mary-- Drive by Reception

Monday, December 21

5:00 pm--Vespers Service, Outdoors
Poinsettia Order Deadline

Wednesday, December 23

12 Noon--Deadline for articles and pictures for the Bridge

Thursday, December 24

Church office Closed
5:30 pm--Service of Silent Night
7:00 pm --Christmas Eve Service by Zoom

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas Everyone!
Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 26

Poinsettia Pick up, 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday, December 27-1st Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am Zoom Worship Service
Pastor Mary's last service with us!

Wednesday, December 30

12 Noon--Deadline for articles and pictures for the Bridge

Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 3--2nd Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am Zoom Worship Service

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

843-785-5560