



## **The Bridge**

### **December 11, 2020**

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

---



**Inspiring thoughts by Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director**

#### **Good riddance 2020!**

This will be my last writing for 2020, since I am going to Germany to finally see my parents.

What a year this has been...if my count is right then this is the 26th time I am making an effort to uplift you all.

It has been 34 weeks since we all last worshiped together in the sanctuary. What was supposed to be a short in-person worship break, 4-6 weeks maybe, turned out to be a break for the rest of 2020. Who would have thought?

2020 has been an unprecedented year! In January we went through a painful disaffiliation vote, the same month I (and many of you) said good-bye to Manfred in a beautiful memorial service. And just as we started lent we had to face a pandemic and all the challenges that came with it.

We stayed isolated and alone for a long time, high school and college graduations took place online. On Easter 2020 churches worldwide stayed closed. Who thought this was possible?

And then, in the midst of this unprecedented test, something very inspiring happened:

You, all of you, we, our church heard the call to rise! Despite all those tremendous challenges, we kept going. No, it wasn't easy. But we did it!

Under the motivational leadership of Pastor Mary and our council, we moved on, we actually moved onward and upward.

We learned a lot about online worship, zoom, (music) video making and the advantages of connecting with people far away via technology.

We started our own “soup kitchen” aka lunch break on Thursdays, we had our little food pantry up and running in no time, we got a call committee together to start the search for our new pastor, all in the midst of a pandemic. Where other churches stopped paralyzed, we rose up!

We became the church deployed!

We started CONNECTED via zoom and it worked great! We ran several fundraisers very successfully to support our HHI community and the wider world (aka Malawi), we are supporting a refugee in his education, we’re feeding the hungry daily with the food pantry and weekly with the lunch break program.

Our preschool took a leap of faith in August to start back up while other schools were still wondering what to do and we have more than doubled attendance in the meantime.

We even started our renovation process, in the middle of a pandemic, and took a huge leap of faith trusting that it will all work out! Every day I can see the changes that are being made.

Just last week we extended a call to our new Pastor June!

I mean really? Aren’t you all as impressed as I am? We have an unbelievably great community of believers who keep us going, who refuse to struggle and who, when the going gets tough, straighten up and do what needs to be done.

That is what church is all about! It is not about sitting in a pew once a week on Sundays for an hour.

It is a living, breathing community, a family, that pulls together when times are tough. Who support each other and the wider mission of God’s calling for us here on Hilton Head Island.

We are the church! We are God’s people; loving our neighbor; extending a helping hand; putting our own needs and wishes aside to help getting through this!

No, we do not always get what we want or wish for. But we are bigger than our own wishes, we can see the greater good. We understand the goal of staying safe and healthy but still doing the work that God has called us to do.

I am seriously in awe of you all! The way you all came through has filled me with light and love over the last several months.

We can do this! Now, with a vaccination in sight, the end of this pandemic will eventually come. It’ll be a while before we have reached herd immunity but at least we know it will end!

And can you imagine the celebration we, this awesome community of believers, will have when we finally all get back together? In our newly renovated sanctuary? The strength and growth we all will have experienced through those hard times?

Trust that we will be fine! God will keep blessing this family of believers! Because we are awesome!

I am wishing us all a happy, healthy and blessed 2021! May CLC grow in the special way that can be accomplished with God’s greatest blessings and an indestructible faith in our mission here in HHI!

Merry Christmas,

you will all from me again next year :-)

Peace be with you all,

**Silke**

---

**Christ Lutheran Church Zoom Worship  
Sunday, December 13-Third 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](http://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. Please place this date on your calendar:



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020  
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 ksfd@hotmail.com.*



**OUTDOOR ADVENT VESPERS**  
**"Vespers" are sunset evening prayer services that we will hold outside in our grassy parking area beginning at 5pm on Wednesday, December 16 and on Monday December 21.**

We will have live music, handbells, and an evening service of about 30 minutes. We'll have some lights in the trees and torches serving as the four candles of Advent. The

campfire will be burning. Those who want to depart at the end of the service are welcome to do so. Those who want to stay under the stars and around the fire are welcome to linger and toast a marshmallow or two. (Bring your own skewer. The church will provide the marshmallows.)

Worshippers are asked to bring: a beach chair, a mask, a small flashlight or the light on your phone. We will send you an order of service that can be utilized on your phone as well as having a few paper copies. An offering basket will be available too!

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





*Away in a Manger*



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!

### **Poinsettias and Christmas Eve Service**

We will have our Christmas Eve worship service on December 24 via Zoom from Heinrichs Hall. This year we will have only one service at 7 pm. Poinsettias will adorn our worship area.

Please fill out the Order Form and return it to the office along with your payment. You may also pay using the Tithe.ly 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. Return the form and payment by December 21st!

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

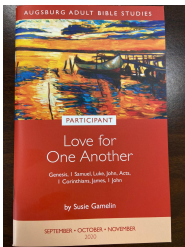
**The LITTLE FREE  
PANTRY** in Christ  
Lutheran’s parking lot  
continues to draw many  
people each day seeking  
food, hygiene products and



cleaning supplies to help them through a difficult time. A Thrivent member at Christ Lutheran obtained a gift card for \$250 from Thrivent to support this project at our church. Chris Wilcox went shopping for the pantry and spent \$249.58 for supplies. (Now that's good shopping!) Carol Beck organizes the items and schedules volunteers (some of whom are pictured here) to stock the pantry on a daily

basis. It truly provides a wonderful resource for people in our community who desperately need extra help at this time. Through the generosity of Christ Lutheran members we continue to be able to offer this worth while outreach.

## LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY



Weekly Bible Study continues this Wednesday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Contact **Kathy Mork** if you would like to participate or if you have any questions.

## RECAP OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

This provides a brief recap of our called Congregational Meeting which was held on December 6, 2020. Following our Covid guidelines our meeting was held outside in beautiful weather. We had very good attendance well exceeding the quorum needed. The purpose of our meeting was to vote on three motions that require congregational approval. The results were as follows:

- 1) To call Pastor June Wilkins as our full time pastor. The vote was 47 Yes and 0 No. Motion passed.
- 2) To accept the recommended compensation package for Pastor Wilkins. The vote was 47 Yes and 0 No. Motion Passed
- 3) To elect six members to our Council. These six include Lynn Baglyos, Carol Benton, Doug Felten, Suzy Makalous, Jo Ann Sebulsky and Paulette Stefanik. The vote for each was 47 Yes and 0 No. All six were elected.

### Pastoral Transition

We are in the process with the Bishop's office of extending our formal call of Pastor June Wilkins and finalizing all the necessary paperwork. She has verbally accepted and we are working on a proposed start date, most likely around February 1, 2021.

We also wanted to announce that our Interim, Pastor Mary Anderson will be departing Christ Lutheran on December 31, 2020. This is consistent with her planned leave as our Interim. We will miss Pastor Mary greatly and have been blessed by her presence.



In the interim, between Pastor Mary and Pastor June (the month of January), confirmation classes will be covered by Silke and the January worship services will be coordinated by a supply pastor, Tami Kuhlmann and the worship team.

Joe Etter

Council President

---

## Preschool News

Our Sandbar fundraiser was a HUGE success!! We raised \$2,403! That is the most we have ever made at this event! Many, many thanks to everyone who participated by dining in or getting take-out. This money will go towards refurbishing our two year old playground.

---



### RENOVATION UPDATE

Progress is being made both inside and outside the church. This past week shows progress on our outside entrance way and side yards.

Right side of front of church being prepared.



Inside church pews being removed for



Right side yard being prepared for concrete pouring.



refinishing and prep for new carpeting.



Side view of front canopy in place.

Canopy has been erected at front entrance



Sarah DeMaria's mother, Leora Horst  
Steve Bassford  
Victims of recent wildfires and hurricanes  
Our nation living with many blessings and much strife

Nancy McCleskey's sister, Cyndie, Jim Kondor, Connie Simon, Bill Putrino, Ted Drilling

## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

**Friday, December 11--Annual Reports Due**  
Church Office Closed

**Sunday, December 13-- Third Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 am Zoom Worship Meeting

**Tuesday, December 15**  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting

**Wednesday, December 16**  
5:00 pm Advent Vespers



**Thursday, December 17**  
4:30 pm Confirmation Class

**Friday, December 18**  
Last Day for Preschool (Christmas break)  
Church Office Closed

**Sunday, December 20--Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 am Zoom Worship Meeting

2:00 to 4:00 pm Farewell to Pastor Mary,  
Drive-By Reception

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**843-785-5560**