



The Bridge

May 14, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

WILL BE ON ZOOM at 10 AM

Zoom Link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85691010897?pwd=TXhoZTgrWVlGaFFteXMrOEtPSkNmdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 9101 0897

Passcode: loveCLCHHI

You will need the password to access every Zoom meeting.

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

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

Pastor June will NOT be giving out communion after worship (she is visiting her mother.)



Inclusive Language

Words matter. We use words to express ourselves, convey instructions and tell stories. Words can heal and they can hurt. They can include or exclude. As Christians, we use words to tell the story of Jesus and God. Through words, the stories of Jesus have been passed down from the original disciples to us. And words are all we will have to pass the stories on to the next generation. The Gospel of John even calls Jesus "The Word of God." Words matter. Language matters. What we say matters.

That is why I think, as Christians, using inclusive language in our speech, worship and writing is important.

Inclusive language is when we use nouns and pronouns that are not male gender-specific when referring to people and even to God. Being inclusive in our language means using "humankind" instead of "mankind", "he or she" and not just "he" and "brother and sister" and not just "brother" when referring to people. And it also means using "God" or "Creator" and not just "He" or "Father" when referring to God.

I try to do this intentionally in my speaking and leading because I believe words matter and how we convey the message of Jesus to each other matters. When we use only masculine language, I believe that it can inadvertently exclude females from the message.

Sometimes this can be difficult because the Bible itself uses many masculine words and pronouns when talking about people and especially when talking about God. There are new translations like the NRSV and the New Living Translation and the Message that have intentionally used gender-neutral words for humanity. (Most still use mostly masculine language for God.)

It's important to remember that the languages of Hebrew and Greek, in which the books of the Bible were originally written, are gender-specific languages. That means that every noun and verb conjugation has a gender assignment. And the ancient traditions of the languages proscribe that any mixed gender reference defers to male. That means if there are a crowd of all women and one man, the crowd is referred to in the masculine form of the word therefore, people or humans as a group were always referred to as "men". Like at the end of Paul's letter to the Galatians he writes "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers *and sisters*." (Gal 6:18) The original reads only "brothers" but it is obvious that he is addressing the whole community and not just the men.

We do not have that gender specific issue with the English language. But when the bible was translated into English early on (until the last half of the 20th century), the translators made a choice to use the male pronoun when referring to crowds and human beings. This is probably because it was also the custom at the time of those translations to use mostly male pronouns in the English language.

The gender-inclusive use for God might be a more difficult issue for some. The original writers of the bible certainly referred to God as male and understood God as male. This might be partially a convention of the languages they used, but it might have been their assumption at the time that men were superior to women and therefore God was obviously male.

But we don't share that assumption today. We also understand that God is neither male nor female. Genesis 1:27 reads "God created humankind in his image, *in the image of God he created them; male and female* he created them." Even while it is referring to God as "he", it still says that male and female were created in God's image. So God's image is of both genders. Also, in the Hebrew scriptures, the Spirit of God is referred to as "Ruach", which is a feminine word. And in Proverbs, the Wisdom of God (which was said to be there during creation) was metaphorically spoken of as a female (Proverbs 8-9). In Isaiah and Psalms and other places, God is spoken of metaphorically as a woman (Is 42:14, 49:15, Ps 22:1, 9-10.)

The writers of the bible used metaphors to attempt to convey God to the listener. God cannot be fully understood or captured, so they used familiar things in an attempt to point to God with them. These metaphors, though, should not be understood literally. Even when Jesus referred to God as "abba" (translated by us as "father") it was meant to convey the closeness and familiarity of God, (more closely the word is "daddy") not necessarily to identify the gender of God. At the best these metaphors point us towards God; they do not and cannot convey the whole reality of God. It is important that we convey God in many and varied ways so we don't exclude other images of God from our understanding and imagination.

Sometimes it's hard to use inclusive language, especially in speaking. Many of the gender pronouns like "mankind", "Father" and using "He" for God are ingrained in our tradition and our heads. Since most of us have used them since we were young, it comes more naturally to us than using more inclusive language. But just because something comes automatically or naturally that doesn't mean that it is the best way. And, like anything, practicing make it easier to do.

Using inclusive language in Christian expression is not just a politically correct thing thought up by feminists to make life difficult. It's an intentional act of including more people into the story of God. It's about welcoming people with our words just as we do with our actions. Words matter. They have an effect on people. I will always attempt to always use inclusive language in speaking, praying, and in leading worship. I believe it is our call to have our words match our intentions: Welcoming all people into God's community.

Rev. June Wilkins



Confirmation

will be

Sunday May 30, 2021 10:00 am

in person in the back Parking Lot

We will be confirming five of our young people!

Mark your calendars!

HONORING OUR CONFIRMANDS

Jonathan Ryan DeMaria

Born and raised in Hilton Head, Jonathan and his family (Sarah, Mike and brother Peyton) moved to Orlando for a year but returned to Hilton Head for 11 of his 12 years. He was only three when they lived in Florida making him as close to being a Hilton Head native as possible. Currently, Jonathan is in 7th grade and loves living here close to friends and family. Growing up surrounded by the ocean, Jonathan loves the beach and all the wonderful activities in the water.



Those of you who know Jonathan know that he is an athlete! Outside of school, he likes to play basketball, run cross country and play soccer. When asked about his passions, Jonathan stated that, "I have a passion for mainly sports, but I am interested in therapy and want to learn more about it as I get older." In order to achieve this, his goals are to get good grades and be accepted into a good college. You would be an awesome therapist, Jonathan!

Christ Lutheran has been Jonathan's church home for his entire life, including beginning his education at the CLC Preschool. In addition to confirmation classes, Jonathan is involved with the youth group and has a great time being a part of activities that help members of our community and any others that are in need. When asked what it means to be a confirmed member of Christ Lutheran, Jonathan had a thoughtful and insightful response. He stated:

"For me, being confirmed means a lot because before I had joined the youth group and the confirmation class, I was confused about God and wanted to get a better understanding about Him. During the confirmation classes, I have had a stronger relationship with God and a better understanding of Him. For the church, being a member gives me the ability to vote in the church and truly be accepted as a member of Christ Lutheran."

Welcome, Jonathan, to membership! May you continue on your spiritual journey with your CLC family!



PRESCHOOL NEWS

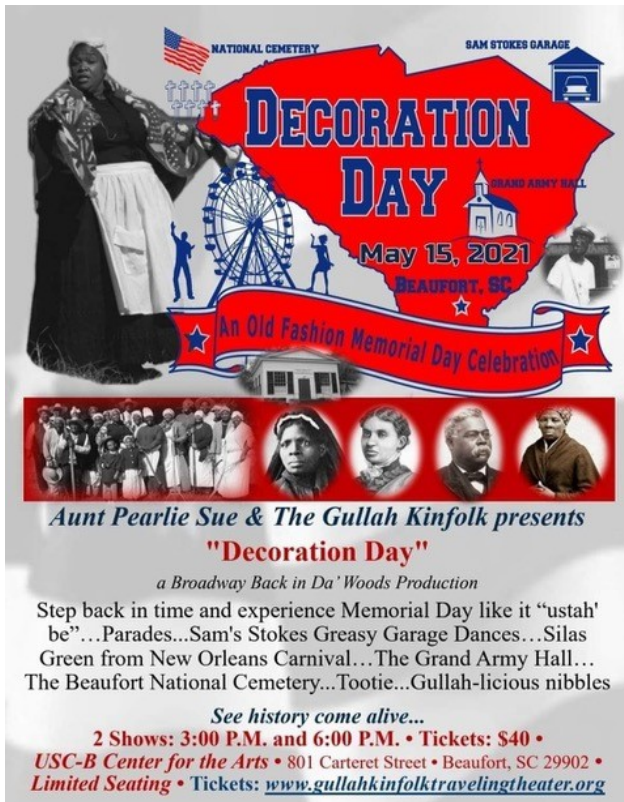
Many thanks to all who came out to support the Food Truck fundraiser for the Preschool! It was definitely a learning experience for us...and we appreciate your patience. The event raised \$185.00.

Don't forget to make your Birdies for Charity payment. You should have received an email last week with the amount owed. Payments are due May

31, 2021. If all pledges are honored we should receive approximately \$4,000. Great job!!

The children had tons of fun this week painting (and then washing!) Mrs. Betts's car!

Decoration Day, an Old Fashion Memorial Day Celebration
on Saturday, May 15, with two show performances, 3 PM and 6 PM.



DECORATION DAY
May 15, 2021
BEAUFORT, SC

An Old Fashion Memorial Day Celebration

Aunt Pearl Sue & The Gullah Kinfolk presents
"Decoration Day"
a Broadway Back in Da' Woods Production

Step back in time and experience Memorial Day like it "ustah' be"...Parades...Sam's Stokes Greasy Garage Dances...Silas Green from New Orleans Carnival...The Grand Army Hall...The Beaufort National Cemetery...Tootie...Gullah-licious nibbles

See history come alive...

2 Shows: 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. • Tickets: \$40 •
USC-B Center for the Arts • 801 Carteret Street • Beaufort, SC 29902 •
Limited Seating • Tickets: www.gullahkinfolktravelingtheater.org

About this event

Gullah Kinfolk Traveling Theater will be presenting "Decoration Day, an Old Fashion Memorial Day Celebration" on Saturday, May 15, with two shows, 3 PM and 6 PM, at the USC Beaufort's Center for the Arts. Both shows will be taped for the upcoming release of the "Decoration Day: The Movie."

For more information and Tickets go to
<https://www.gullahkinfolktravelingtheater.org/>

Women's Book Club

The next meeting will be on Saturday, May 15, 1:30pm, at Heinrich's Hall at Christ Lutheran. This is our FIRST in-person gathering in over a year and we are excited! We hope to include our out of town members via Zoom at the same time. Please let me know if you can attend in person or via Zoom so we can accommodate everyone.

We will discuss a current best seller **The Vanishing Half** by Brit Bennett.

Please contact Chris Wilcox at 843-342-9711 or email her at christineewilcox@aol.com.



CONNECTED completed its session on GRACE this week!
During the summer we will have once-a-month topics.
Please stay tuned for updates on when we meet again!
Thank you!
Your **CONNECTED** team

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Elijah is called the "troubler of Israel". Jesus was also a troubler of Israel. Are we was the church called to be "troublers" in our time as well? How comfortable are you with the conflict that being a "troubler" may cause?

Our study, "Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant", will be discussing Lesson 4, "Elijah, Prophet of Courage" on May 19 at 11am. Study Guides are available in the church office. We meet via GoogleMeet, which is very similar to Zoom to include participants who may not be physically on Hilton Head on Wednesday mornings at 11am. We are a welcoming group that enjoys our time together learning from God's Word and each other. For more information and to receive the link for logging in to our weekly meetings, contact Kathy Mork at klmork@yahoo.com.

Service Ministry Team News**

We have been asked to expand our cookie ministry to help feed the housekeepers at the Sea Pines Resort on Thursdays, starting April 29. St. Andrew by the Sea Methodist Church is providing sandwiches, chips, water, and snack items. CLC bakers would provide cookies/brownies/cupcakes etc. to add to the lunches. We need more bakers to join the other CLC and community bakers who provide the baked goods for our weekly Thursday Lunch Break program. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact **Chris Wilcox at 843-384-1667 or christineewilcox@aol.com** to be added to the baker list. Consider it a one time monthly commitment. Thank you for your consideration.

The next collection for the Thursday Lunch Break, Little Free Pantry, Deep Well and the Preschool will be Sunday, May 2. It's a perfect occasion to attend church, visit with church members you haven't seen in months and contribute to our local outreach ministries. A win-win!!! Please note the following suggestions for each group:

****Thursday Lunch Break: We desperately need small bags of chips (Sam's usually has them in boxes), small bottles of water (cases), granola bars**

Little Free Pantry: paper towels, canned tuna, canned chicken, individual cereal containers, small containers of milk, bars of soap, cans of Chef Boy R Dee, stew etc., canned fruit and vegetables

Preschool: Tall kitchen trash bags, scotch tape, AA Batteries

Deep Well: Band-Aids, sunscreen, deodorant, bottles of juice, cans of fruit



The vaccination clinic on Thursday was a success!

We gave out 37 vaccinations, and people will be back for the next dose on June 10th.

LET'S TALK ABOUT CHRISTMAS! YOU are invited and needed!

Yes, let's talk about Christmas 2021 early this year!

Your CLC leadership has decided on a really exciting new project that hopes to involve ALL members, friends and ongoing visitors of CLC to focus our attention on a happy get-together and a mutual event to plan for fellowship and a good cause.

We are asking you get involved in any way, shape or form that excites you and will give you joy.

On December 5, 2021 we will have a congregational **CHRISTKINDL-MARKET**, in the style of the old town, old-fashioned German arts-crafts-markets that are held in many towns in Germany during Advent season. Those are warm, cozy, loving, non-commercial driven, thoughtful events that help to remember the reason for the season!

It will be an opportunity for ALL of us to get together, to celebrate the season, to sell handmade arts and crafts for a good cause, to have fellowship, to eat treats and to drink Gluehwein.

Outside under our beautiful live oaks a tiny 'Christmas village' with tables and booths/stalls will appear. There will be lights, a fire, high top tables in front of the food serving stalls, music and caroling.

There will be laughter, love, conversations, singing and pulling together for a good cause.

WE NEED YOU ALL TO MAKE IT HAPPEN! IF YOU WISH TO HELP US CONTACT:

Silke & the team (Tami and David Kuhlmann, Susan Fidler, Susie Makalous, Jo Ann Sebulsky, or Paulette Stefanik)

Prayers

Pray for Tom and Sandy Martin. Sandy is seriously ill.
Steven Szymanski, Robin Baselice's brother, testing for ALS.

David Gendlsen, cancerous brain tumor, friend of Robin and Fran Baselice,
Dana Dapolito, relative of Robin and Fran Baselice, reoccurring cancer.

Alex Kasten

Sarah DeMaria's mother, Leora Horst

Connie Simon

Bill Putrino

The family of Mary Margaret Geuss. Her husband recently passed away.
He was the best friend of Don Bethman.

John Sichenze, in poor health in Virginia. (a friend of Doug and Ann Hammes).
All that are ill with COVID-19 and their caregivers.

Jayne and Jim Woods, the daughter and son-in-law of Lois Gregory.
They both have COVID and Jim is especially sick in the hospital.

Any prayer requests for Christ Lutheran members or friends can be shared with Linda in the church office at info@clchhi.com or with Pr. June at pastorjune@clchhi.com. Please include the person's address that you wish us to pray for. If you'd like to call the office, you can do so between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday- Thursday at (843)785-5560.



THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, May 16

10am – ZOOM Worship with Pastor June

Monday, May 17

5pm Christkindl Market team meeting

Tuesday, May 18

10:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 19

9:30 am Preschool Chapel

11:00 am Bible Study via Zoom (Kathy Mork)

4:30 pm Handbell practice

6:30 to 7:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, May 20
11:30 am Lunch Break Program

Friday, May 21
Church Office Closed

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4 pm
843-785-5560