



The Bridge

May 12, 2023

Welcome to Christ Lutheran



Easter 6

Holy Spirit
I Alfonso Garcia

Easter 6

Sunday, May 14
10am

Happy Mother's Day!

LIVE STREAM

WORSHIP at 10AM on SUNDAY

Just click on the link! That's it!

<https://www.youtube.com/live/JiUJR004aQk?feature=share>

You can also find the link on the homepage of our website:

www.clchhi.org

Worship Volunteers:

Lector: Lynn Baglyos

Communion Assistants: Ray & Doris Stickel

Greeters: Judy Beirne & Carla Reichelderfer

Ushers: Wayne & Jo Anne Sebulsky

Altar Guild: Marajeane Zodtner

Our musicians this week are

Piano: Rick Radcliff

Steve Holm, Susie Fidler

Thanks to all our music leaders and volunteers!

RIC Concerns, Pt. 2

I'm continuing from last week answering some of the more common questions we've had about being put



on the list of Reconciling in Christ churches. Last week I talked a little about signs and flags and other public statements about being welcoming to all people, specifically LGBT people. That leads me to the broader topic of why we should say it at all.

Why Say It?

We're already welcoming, why do we have to be on the RIC list? Why do we have to specifically say that we welcome LGBTQ people? Can't we just say "ALL are welcome" and leave it at that? This is always the kind of question most frequently asked about being listed as an RIC congregation.

Honestly, I guess we could quietly be welcoming and not make any kind of outward acknowledgement of it. Other churches have done that and I guess we could too. That would certainly be the safe approach. But it wouldn't be the most helpful to the people we would like to welcome.

Putting ourselves on the list of Reconciling in Christ churches lets the outside world know what is going on inside. It is a public affirmation of our inner conviction. If a Lutheran wants to know what churches are welcoming, RIC is the list that they go to. If a church is not on the list, I assume that, even though they might be welcoming or say "all are welcome" they are not bold enough to state it, or maybe a large faction in the church were opposed to it, or they just weren't confident enough to have the conversation about it. If I were looking for a welcoming church, I would be hesitant to choose one that did not decide to be on the RIC list.

Saying "All Are welcome" alone is not enough these days because so many churches have gone that path who were not really welcoming. People who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) might still question whether or not they will truly be welcomed fully, or will they be welcomed and then told that they cannot be honest about their relationships, or if they're honest about their relationships will they be encouraged to be in leadership. All are welcome might be part of our statements of welcome, but it can't stop there. We have to define what "All" means and these days, it means mentioning that LGBT people are welcomed.

We specifically need to identify our welcome LGBT people because there is a particular hostility among Christians for LGBT people in the last 60 or so years, which has escalated in the last couple of years. As more gay and lesbian people have come out in mainstream life, parts of the church have gotten more and more hostile in its rhetoric. Some have even advocated for literally killing gay and lesbian and transgender people (I'm not exaggerating). This voice is so loud in the public arena that many people assume that Jesus, pastors, all of Christianity, the bible, and God are against LGBT people. Or at least, that we all "love the sinner, hate the sin" (which is pretty insulting even if it's not meant that way.) If we are to stand against that assumption, we need to name it. ***

So does naming our welcome of LGBTQ people come with risk? Yes it does. We can't deny that. Some people might be put off by it and stay away from Christ Lutheran (but others will be drawn to it). We could possibly be targets of vandalism or protest as a few other churches have. (I have been a part of several RIC churches as member, intern, and pastor and none have ever been targets of vandalism or hate.) But this is what happens when we stand together with people who are oppressed and in danger themselves.

There is risk. But Jesus was not opposed to risk. Jesus actually walked right into risk and welcomed it if it was for the sake of others. One of the most asked questions of Jesus was "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He was scrutinized when he approached and touched blind people, and women, and lepers publicly. Jesus interacted with oppressed people out in the open so he could show everyone that God loved them. Some would say that this is what got Jesus crucified: His acceptance and love of everyone. If we are called to follow Jesus, then I believe we are also called to be public with our love of all, especially those who are hated and ostracized, and accept the risk that might come with it. I think it's the primary call of the Gospel.

*** *And by the way, I have been looking at this topic from every way for the last 25 or so years, and I can say, when the bible talks about same-sex relations, it's not talking about*

consenting adults in same-gender relationships. That is because it was largely not a question at the time the bible was written. What is objected to in New Testament letters (because Jesus had absolutely NOTHING to say about it) are situations that most all of us would find objectionable in heterosexual situations too: sex-work, underaged sexual relations, sexual relations where there is an excessive imbalance of power, sexual coercion, and rape. At the time, their only examples of same-gender relationships were in these sexual contexts. (I've got a involved class about sexual relationships in first century Rome and Greece. I'd be glad to share it with anyone, just let me know if you want to hear more about the whole subject!)

What Will We Look Like?

This question comes up occasionally. I think the worry is that if we go on the RIC list, that a flood of new and different people will come in and that those of us who are here now will not recognize the church we love. I can't predict the future, but I am pretty confident in saying that will not happen. Unfortunately, just because we say we want to welcome people, it doesn't mean they have been waiting to come into our doors. (For years, churches have been saying that they want "families with young children", but that doesn't mean that families with young children have been flooding into churches.)

I honestly don't think a flood of any kind of people will come into our doors (we should be so blessed!) What I do imagine will happen is that slowly, all sorts of people (a lot of them like ourselves) will seek us out because they are also looking for an open and inclusive congregation.

I believe that the decision to be RIC will actually be more of an internal/spiritual change for our congregation than an outward, visible change for us. But when we follow the gospel of Christ and follow his path of love and sacrifice, the most amazing things can happen – inside and outside!

*Don't forget about our time to address the council on this topic,
Thursday, May 18th at 6pm.*

Rev. June Wilkins

To read Pr. June's Sermon from last week, click here:

<http://revjunewilkinssermons.blogspot.com/>



Sunday, May 14th

Come join us for a
Mother's Day Pancake Meal
after worship
outside under the portico!

**We need volunteers to help with prep
and clean up!**

**Call Ray Makalous if you can help,
816-510-3041**



The next Service Ministry Team meeting

will be on Tuesday, May 16 at 2:00 pm
in the Craft Room of the Sale Building.
Please join us!



Come To Council

May 18th from 6-6:30pm
in Heinrichs Hall

This will be a special time for people
to address the council on being listed
as a Reconciling In Christ
congregation.



Men's Lunch

Monday, May 22nd
11:30am
Top Dawg
In Shelter Cove

Mark Your Calendar WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH PURPOSE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH PURPOSE
returns in June 2023 for 4 sessions
Wednesdays, at 5:30pm
starting June 7th in Heinrichs Hall.

LUNCH BREAK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Thursday Lunch Break will be cutting back
to serving only twice a month during summer.

The dates will be:

June 8th and the 22nd

July 13th and 27th

August 10th and 24th

Hopefully we will be back to "normal" in September

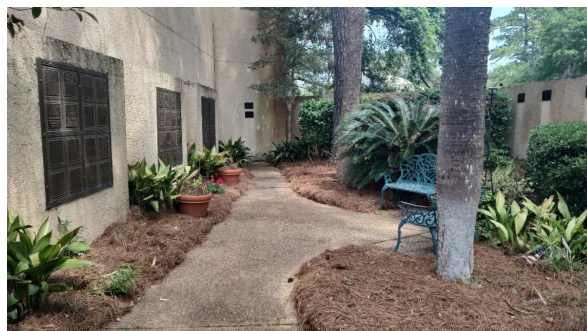
**The Preschool children had a
special visitor this week!**



They were so excited to see a wonderful puppet show from Mr. Puppet.

Many thanks to Bob
for supporting the preschool!

Prayer Garden Beautification Team



We need a few people who would like to make the
prayer garden/ columbarium more beautiful.
If you're interested, Contact Pr. June pastorjune@clchhi.com
or Chris Wilcox christineewilcox@aol.com



Look at who met up in Custer State Park in South Dakota!
How neat! The Mork's and the Pyrlik's!!



**We went on a Chuckwagon Ride today!
Silke, Steve, and Kathy**



CLC Grief Support Group

The community grief support group will be meeting **Tuesdays at 11AM weekly** in the "sofa room" of the educational building.

Please contact Silke in the office or via email if you would like to be part of a group of people who all grieve the loss of a loved one in different and individual ways but can now share the pain and suffering as well as the joys and hopes that life still has to offer.

Contact [Silke Pyrlík](#) for more information!



For Sunday Worship

The flower charts for **May, June and July** are posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary, near the bathrooms.

You can give flowers in honor or memory of anyone you wish. Also, you can choose to take them with you or let us distribute them elsewhere.

The memorial/honorarium will be posted in the Sunday bulletin weekly.

The cost will be \$45.

Thanks so much for helping to make our sanctuary beautiful!

HELP MAKE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Our altar flowers are bought and arranged by members of our congregation!
If you would like to do that, we need someone to provide flowers for the
5th Sunday of each month.

Please contact Nan Stafford (540-230-2388) if you would like to participate!



OUR MEMBERS:

Edith Marth

Tami Kuhlmann, home from back surgery and is doing well.

Carla Holm

MORE PRAYERS NEEDED FOR CLC FRIENDS . . .

Sean O'Brien (family friend of Laura Marth). He was the victim of a terrible home invasion in Pennsylvania.

Gloria Schurley (friend of Paulette Stefanik) A friend from Moncks Corner who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer with other complications.

Jim Woods, son-in-law of Lois Gregory

Richard Brooks (Patty Bassford's son)
He is in the hospital with an infection.

.Friend of Doug and Ann Hamnes:
Mrs. Liz Curtis 7448 Spring Village Drive
Apt. MG-207, Springfield, VA 22150

Pastor June's mother, Carole.

Ruth Keightley, Carol Benton's mother

Ginny Majsztrik, broke both arms (friend of Fran & Robin Baselice)

The people of Chimney Cove

Gary Gregory (Lois Gregory's son)

Nancy Sloane (a friend of Fran and Robin Baselice),
diagnosed with leukemia

Dana Dapolito, relative of Robin and Fran Baselice for recurring cancer

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 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday- Thursday at (843)785-5560.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, May 14-- Mother's Day

10:00 am **Worship Easter 6**, Sanctuary
Pancake Breakfast, after Worship

Monday, May 15

Pastor June and Silke Pyrlik out of office

Tuesday, May 16

Pastor June and Silke Pyrlik out of office
No Staff meeting

Wednesday, May 17

Pastor June out of office
Silke Pyrlik back in office
11:00 am Bible Study via Zoom
4:30 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 18

Pastor June back in office
10:00 am Lunch Break Program
6:00 pm Church Council Meeting, Heinrichs Hall

Friday, May 19

5:00 pm Shag Club meets in Heinrichs Hall

NOTE:

**The Lunch Break Program will be provide
lunches on these dates only this summer:**

June 8th and the 22nd

July 13th and 27th

August 10th and 24th

Hopefully to be back to "Normal" in September

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
843-785-5560

[Unsubscribe info@clchhi.com](mailto:info@clchhi.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by info@clchhi.com