

CHRIST TODAY

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of Christ Lutheran Church, Warren NALC/ LCMC

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Family,

Grace and peace to you and from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks to Him who sustained and brought us this far.

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

In this time of Lent I want you to focus on prayer as a means to draw near to our heavenly Father who sent his only begotten Son to save us from death. I just want to share this wonderful and powerful text with you as we humble ourselves before the Lord and continue to pray for us and for our church and the nation at large.

As Church-age believers we have the incredible privilege of access to the throne of grace for mercy to find help in time of need. Prayer for ourselves, our families, our leaders and nation; intercession for the lost is important – but it is also vital to understand the Bible in its correct historical context. And this verse is often quoted outside its true Biblical setting.

These were words spoken by the great King Solomon – the son of King David who built a magnificent Temple for the Lord. In the company of God's chosen people-Israel, he prayed that God would be faithful to keep the unconditional covenant that he made with his father, King David. God honored his prayer and accepted the sacrifices that King Solomon offered. The sign was that fire came down from heaven and consumed the offerings, and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. As it is written, even the priests could not serve the usual service because of the glory revealed.

But Solomon had failed to reference the conditional covenant that God had made with Israel at Sinai through their great leader Moses, where blessings would result from Israel's obedience and faithfulness but curses would result from their disobedience. And so we read that in a night-time vision, God appeared to His servant Solomon and gave the king the following warning for Israel:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice: when I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

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SPECIAL DATES

- World Day of Prayer – 3/1
- Lenten meal/service – 3/6
- Bible Study 1:00 pm - 3/6
- Youth Group- 6-8pm 3/8
- Euchre - 2-5:00 3/9
- Daylight-Savings Time - 3/10
- Lenten meal/service - 3/13
- Pairs & Spares lunch - 3/14
- Grief Share - noon 3/14
- St.Patrick's Day lunch – 3/17
- First Day of Spring – 3/19
- Bible Study 1pm - 3/20
- Lenten meal/service - 3/20
- Youth Group 6-8pm – 3/22
- Palm Sunday service – 3/24
- Easter Egg Hunt
Noon-1:30 - 3/24
- Prayer Night 7pm - 3/27
- Maundy Thurs. 7 pm – 3/27
- Good Friday Services
noon & 7pm 3/29
- Easter Vigil 6:30pm – 3/30
- Easter Sunday 10 am 3/31

March 2024						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Called To Glory

Since the printing of our last newsletter, a member of our church family has departed from her earthly life and entered into her eternal home.

Dottie (Dorothy) Gillette (Georges)

Born: 1-14-1939 Departed: 2-17-2024

We rejoice that she is safe with the Lord for evermore and we pray that God will comfort her family and friends



Thank You! Thank You! Thank you!

CLC Church Family,

I would like to thank Pastor Hunde for all the prayers, visits, and phone calls. A huge thanks to my Church Family for all the meals, cards and most of all the prayers! Without them, I'm not sure I'd be as far along in the healing process.

Again, thank you ALL from the bottom of my heart.

Gail Dietz

Thank you to all who contributed Health Care Kits to our NALC Disaster Warehouse in Owosso. Your generosity is appreciated. The kits will be delivered some time in March.

The Evangelism Committee

Catechism Students Interact with Church Members

Did You Know? One of the most valuable experiences we have in life is when we learn about Jesus, whether it is in the Bible Study, Sunday School, Catechism, listening to a message or simply by prayer. Every year, Catechism students learn not only the profound detail about Luther's Small Catechism and how to build their relationship with God, but also the ability to faithfully connect with people in the community. When you were growing up, how did your faith grow in Christ? What brought YOU closer to God?

The Catechism students were on assignment to connect with people after worship. They politely asked for any special prayer requests from church members. Then in class, they talked about how this interaction with church members made them feel, and how the members reacted. This made them feel closer to God and more comfortable connecting with people. Following the lesson, the Catechism students prayed for everyone who they spoke with. They are truly grateful for this experience. Thank you for your willingness to allow the youth to engage themselves with you in the church.

Daily Bread Pantry Assists County Residents

This month, the pantry will be reaching out to Macomb County residents on Tues., March 19 from noon until 1 pm. As we go through the Lenten season, please pray for one another because everyone faces their own challenges every day. At the same time, we must also be thankful for all our blessings because everything belongs to God. This includes you and me! We are His children of all ages. The places, & things, the seen & unseen also belong to Him. The clothing we have, all the food we eat, and the shelter we have are basic needs that people take for granted. We also have this church to worship in & share fellowship with one another. Please pray for people who do not feel close to God or do not have anyone who is strong in faith. The pantry is an awesome ministry which invites people who have not connected with God or have been without Jesus for some time.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP 7:00 P.M. MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES						
Services are in-person & Live Streamed					1	2
3 Worship Service at 10 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Blood Pressure 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - Worship Mtg.	4 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 Genesis	5 12:30 p.m. Evangelism and SC Meeting	6 1 pm Bible Study 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	7	8 6 – 8:00 Youth Group	9 2-5:00 pm Euchre
10 Worship Service at 10:00 am with communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Catechism	11 9:30 a.m. Prayer group 5:30 p.m. CLC Praise Band 6:00 Parish Ed. Meeting	12 10-1:00 Pins and Needles 10 am Staff Meeting 6:30 Executive Meeting	13 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	14 Noon Grief Share Noon Pairs & Spares lunch at Mexican Village	15	16
17 Worship Service at 10 am 10:00 - Sunday School 11:15 - Coffee Hour 11:15 - Catechism 11:15 - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	18 9:30am Prayer grp. 5:30 Genesis	19 6:30 Council Meeting	20 1 pm Bible Study 6:00 Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service	21	22 6-8:00 Youth Group	23
24 Palm Sunday Service at 10 am with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School 11:15 Coffee Hour 12-1:30 Easter Egg Hunt 31 10 am Youth-led Easter service with communion	25 9:30a.m. Prayer group 5:30 p.m. CLC Praise Band	26 10 am Staff Meeting	27 7:00 Prayer Night	28 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service with communion	29 Good Friday services Noon & 7pm	30 6:30 Easter Vigil with communion

YOUNG AT HEART AGE 50 PLUS



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

Send a card and share a wish with our **young at heart** 50 + seniors of CLC.

Theresa Brudzynsky	3/01
Phyllis Skora	3/01
Jeri Tompkins	3/02
Annette Brow	3/05
Bernd Doetzki	3/05
Helen Doetsch	3/07
Margaret Donkin	3/07
Joe Dzielski	3/07
Jeff Lozen	3/07
Sue Bochenek	3/10
Jonathan Centner	3/10
Noreen Henning	3/15
Ray Brudzynsky	3/17
Rich Bull	3/19
Charles Mirisciotti	3/19
Mike Daniels	3/23
Betty Stutzky	3/25
Connie Miller	3/29
Joyce Kaganac	3/31
Lynn Lusk	3/31

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Num 6:24-26



Happy Anniversary



*Bob & Ann Slavko March 8
55 years*

Easter Egg Hunt

This year, the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Palm Sunday, March 24. It begins at noon and ends at 1:30 pm. This provides an opportunity for children to gather and learn about Easter through a story, music, and crafts.

If you are willing to share your time for an hour and a half on March 24 to make this event special, contact Melissa or Evelyn.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Vacation Bible School

The Parish Ed Committee is focusing on Vacation Bible School, which will take place Monday, June 17 through Thursday, June 20, from 9-11:30am. Please mark your calendars and let us know if you have morning hours available. We need volunteers to make this program run smoothly and to make this a positive experience for the children.

We are currently making plans to provide these children with four days of organized, fun activities that will teach them about Jesus, that will allow them to establish friendships while doing crafts, singing songs, enjoying snacks and experiencing a variety of recreational activities.

Please share whatever amount of time you have available. There are tasks that can match everyone's personal schedule. Please contact Melissa Bruesehoff or Evelyn Hudson-Wright if you can help out. You can also contact the church office to sign up as well.

We greatly appreciate any support you can give us.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC/LCMC

Phone: 586-293-0700

Fax: 586-293-5046

Email: churchoffice@clcwarren.org

Web: www.christlutheranchurchwarren.org

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Tsegayseus Hurisa Hunde
Tsega.hunde@clcwarren.org

Kathi Frezza, Business Director
Kathi.frezza@clcwarren.org

Shannon Huizdos, Office Administrator
Shannon.huizdos@clcwarren.org

Evelyn Hudson-Wright, Youth & Family Ministry
Evelyn.hudson-wright@clcwarren.org

Justin Bowse, Music Director
Justin.bowse@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Cheryl Gothro, President
Cheryl.gothro@clcwarren.org

Dave Dietz, Vice President
remprinting@sbcglobal.net

Jim Bruesehoff, Treasurer
Jim.bruesehoff@clcwarren.org

Suzanne Sopfe, Secretary
Suzanne.sopfe@clcwarren.org

Church Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs: 9am – 2:00pm

Friday – 9:00 am - noon

From the President **He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!**

What a glorious statement we as Christians can sing and shout! As we study, pray, and worship through the Lenten season we especially look to Holy Week beginning with Psalm Sunday, the Lord's Supper, Jesus' arrest, trials, and Crucifixion culminating with the empty tomb! Please join us as we study Jesus' life and journey to the cross for forgiveness of our sins. After all, as Christians, we are an Easter people! Without this great sacrifice and gift of forgiveness from God through His Son, Jesus Christ, we would have no hope of life everlasting.

We have many services and programs throughout Lent. Please make sure to check the church calendar and web site for all that is being offered. If you are in need of transportation, especially for the evening Lenten meals and services, please contact Shannon through the church office, or any church member with whom you may have contact. We continue to pray for those who are ill or have lost loved ones. If you wish to have a visit from Pastor Hunde, receive communion, or wish to be placed on our prayer list, please contact Shannon via the church office.

He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!
Yours in Christ, Cheryl Gothro



Pictured above are a few of the 20 CLC members who enjoyed lunch at Cloverleaf Pizza in East Pointe last month. Another outing is planned at the Mexican Village on Wednesday, March 14 at noon.

Our Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics

B) Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is the other Sacrament which we Lutherans emphasize as one of the important parts of our Christian doctrine. "According to Martin Luther's definition, Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word." Holy Baptism is instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ as we read in the gospel of Matthew. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt 28:19). For Lutherans, baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare." Baptism gives rebirth to be included in the kingdom of God.

Here is some biblical evidence of Baptism as a means of grace for our salvation: "Repent to be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Acts 2:38

"Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away." Acts 22:16

"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?...if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection." Rom 6:3,5

"All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Gal 1:13-14

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:16

"This water (of Noah's flood) symbolizes baptism that now saves you also. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:23

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

Infant baptism: Why do we Lutherans baptize infants?

1. According to what is written in the scripture, all nations should be baptized. The word 'nation' in English and the original Greek word in Greek New Testament, which is in the great commission of our Lord, includes infants. That is why Lutherans believe in infant baptism as biblical practice.

2. All have sinned and need salvation. Children are born with inherited sin according to what is written in the bible. Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:12, Psa 51:5. The only way for infants to get forgiveness of sins is through baptism (Joh 3:5).

3. Infants were part of the Old covenant when God commanded Moses to do so.

"You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your fore skin, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant." Genesis 17: 11-12

Baptism is the Christian equivalent of circumcision, or the circumcision of Christ: "In him you were also circumcised with...the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col. 2:11-12). Thus, like circumcision, baptism can be given to children as well as adults. The difference is that circumcision was powerless to save (Gal. 5:6. 6:15), but "(b)aptism...now saves you." (Pet.3:21)

Mode of Baptism

Jesus did not give us a clear mode of baptism in his great commission.

From the Pastor's desk

(continued from page 1)

God also told Solomon that Israel's disobedience would result in loss of their peace, their freedom; their land and their Temple. Indeed, the Lord continued to explain to Solomon: "but if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot them from my land – the land that I have given them. And this Temple which I consecrated for my name, will be cast out of my sight – and I will make it an object of scorn among all nations."

When the Word of God is not read in context it is easy to misunderstand its true meaning and purpose. Certainly, we should humble ourselves and pray. Indeed Christians are exhorted in the New Testament to: humble themselves before the mighty hand of God and to pray without ceasing. Certainly we should seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit as we die to self daily and live to God, for His praise and glory.

Certainly we should intercede for our world leaders, governments, nations and lost souls – indeed we are urged to make appeals to the Lord through prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, on behalf of all men – and Paul specifically mentioned kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity – and certainly we should pray for the body of Christ, which is the Church – as well as for families and friends – yes, there are many instructions for Christians to pray and intercede.

This time should be a time of prayer for our church. Let us humble ourselves before his mighty hand. We have a number of homebound members who need our prayer and support. Therefore, I urge you all to join us on Wednesday evenings for the Lenten services at 7pm and for the 7pm Prayer Evening on March 27 at Christ Lutheran Church. I thank God for the unity of the Spirit we have, and we need to keep it going until the end!

May God bless you richly and abundantly more than what you ask and think!

Pastor Tsegayesus Hurisa Hunde



Easter Vigil offers transition from sorrow to joy



The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall and end before daybreak on Sunday. The Church reads the account of creation as a prophecy when God said, "Let there be light." Readings will begin with Genesis and continue throughout the Bible to the final accounting of Christ's life, crucifixion, and resurrection in the Gospels.

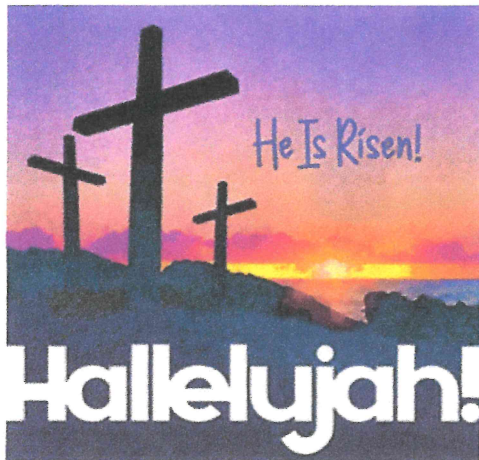
The primary symbol is the Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ Himself, risen triumphantly from the dead, shining as the True Light to nations. We sing "The Light of Christ." His light breaks the darkness (leading people out of the darkness into light). The candles of the faithful are lit from the Paschal Candle, just as our baptismal candles are lit. Then the candles of the faithful followers are lit.

The service normally consists of four parts: The service of light where the Pascal candle is lit from fire significantly struck by stone (signifies the corner stone which is Jesus Christ). The second symbol is water or Baptism. Baptism is cleansing and new birth, making us the source of which Living Waters spring forth. The third symbol is the singing of the new song, The Alleluia. Singing with great joy. The fourth symbol is Communion – symbolizing the covenant of Christ's sacrifice by the body and the blood of Jesus as shared during the Last Supper for the forgiveness of our sins.

Christ Lutheran Church, NALC/ LCMC
32300 Schoenherr Rd.
Warren MI 48088
586-293-0700
www.christlutheranchurchwarren.org

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March 2024



EASTER LILIES

We will be placing lilies around the altar again this Easter. Purchase a plant for \$12, honor someone special and beautify the sanctuary. **The final day to order lilies is March 17, 2024.**

Your name _____

Phone _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

From the _____ family.

Please note: plants can be picked up following the Easter Worship Service March 31.