

Christ's Ambassador

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Preston, Minnesota



2020

Love God, Love People, Follow Jesus

Christ Lutheran Church - Preston, Minnesota

Telephone: (507)765-2161

Church Email: office@christlutheranpreston.org

Website: www.christlutheranpreston.org

Pastor: Pastor Dan Bredberg (cell: 507-838-1745)

(email: pastordan@christlutheranpreston.org)

Council President: Dawn Hellickson



April

- 4/1 Brandon Hoff, Janet Brevig
- 4/2 Kim Bremseth, Cami Jones, Kennedy Rjstau, Neyland Harstad
- 4/4 **Brett & Kari Broadwater – Anniv.**
- 4/5 Lynn Glaser, Karen Quanrud, Ella Rjstau
- 4/8 Jack Marzolf, Miles Kaiser
- 4/9 Lilianna Dempewolf, Garrett Gossman
- 4/10 Camilla Specht, Avery Olson
- 4/11 David Milne
- 4/12 Matt Quanrud
- 4/14 Maggie Dempewolf, Coltan Dempewolf, Shelby Ebner, Tony Severson
- 4/16 Dale Grabau
- 4/17 Christian Harrison, Dawson Schmidt, Chris Schreier, **Jason & Rebecca Schwingle – Anniv.**
- 4/18 Chris Hahn, Sheryl Schultz, Mathew Bakken
- 4/19 Jerry Specht
- 4/20 Chuck Aug, Aiden Peterson, Stella Speer
- 4/21 Jim Baker
- 4/22 Betty Rjehl; **Stacey & Mari Lyn Bakke – Anniv., Kevin & Joyce Every – Anniv.**
- 4/23 Myleigh Scheevel, Levi Johnson
- 4/24 Adam Hanning, Emily Scheevel; **Kyle & Cathy Runtsch – Anniv.**
- 4/25 Tyson Sprenger
- 4/26 Cori Larson, Jerry Schultz; **Jerry & Mary Specht – Anniv.**
- 4/27 Cody Rjstau, Joe Specht, Chad Persons
- 4/28 Paula Severson, Jillian Tieskotter, Kylee Shumpert, Cooper Holtegaard
- 4/29 Angie Powell, Ajay Rjstau, Ron Schreier
- 4/30 **Eryn & Sandy Marzolf – Anniv.**

Dear partners in mission,

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we as a church are doing our best to keep people safe and provide opportunities to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ that rescues us from our fears. After much prayer and conversation with other churches and synod staff, these are our current action steps:

1) In light of recent restrictions recommended by the state and national government, we will be postponing all church functions and meetings until further notice. This means no soup suppers, no Wednesday evening Lenten services, no circles or team meetings, and no in-person Sunday morning worship for now. We are not sure how many weeks this will last, but know that we will update you as soon as plans change and we can resume in-person gatherings.

In the meantime, we are working hard on ways to help us remain connected in the midst of the mandated social distancing. We are currently offering morning and evening devotions on Facebook, group Bible study through the Bible App, phone-in group Bible study Tuesday mornings at 9:30am, mid-week Lenten reflections/worship, online songs, audio and video sermons and interactive video worship gatherings each weekend through Zoom and Facebook live. Contact Pastor Dan or see our website and Facebook page for more information on any of these new connection points.

Remember that the church cannot be cancelled, because church is not a building, it is a people. We are the church. Now more than ever, we need to BE the church, caring for each other, spreading hope and kindness, praying for our world, nation and local community, and not giving in to panic or anxiety. We will get through this together!

2) We encourage everyone to take time each week to check in with other members of our church and community, especially those who are elderly, at risk or isolated. You church staff and leadership are making lots of phone calls to start this process. We also hope you will look at your church directory and call the people on your page. This can be a good way to maintain spiritual connection and support even while we are apart physically. Please check in with your neighbors as well.

3) We will use our social media reach to publicize congregational availability to support those in need during this time. Our Facebook page is a great resource for connection and online conversations. (facebook.com/christlutheranpreston/). Other online opportunities to do Bible study and worship will be available. If you have prayer concerns or need spiritual care, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dan at pastordanpreston@gmail.com or 507-838-1745. If you know of people who can use phone calls, meal deliveries, medicine, or even basic supplies like milk, bread and toilet paper, let us know and we as a church can help provide for those needs. We will get through this together.

4) As you are able, we encourage you to continue to give offerings in support of Christ Lutheran's mission to Love God, Love People and Follow Jesus. Use Simply Giving automated checking account withdraws (available by calling the church office), give online or through text—details are at christlutheranpreston.org/giving/ or mail your offering to our church office.

Remember, the work of the church continues even if we cannot be physically together!

Finally, dear friends in Christ, let us remember that Jesus is with us in the midst of this anxious time. Although this is a different kind of Lent than any of us expected, we pray that we will continue to feel His presence, love and grace as we prepare for the miracle of Easter and the promise of hope and new life. Look for email and facebook updates on how we can celebrate Holy Week even if we need to be physically separated. We *will* get through this together as we continue to trust in the Lord and live in love.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Dan

"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; don't be anxious, because I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand."
Isaiah 41:10



DID YOU KNOW....

When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death plague, he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now...

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."



Every night in every home



1	Matthew 26:36-46
2	John 13:1-17
3	Mark 10:34
4	Isaiah 55:8-11
5	Mark 16:1-8
6	Acts 10:34-43
7	1 Corinthians 15:12-17
8	John 11:25-26
9	1 Peter 1:3-4
10	2 Corinthians 5:17
11	Ephesians 4:22-24
12	John 20:19-31
13	Romans 6:4
14	Lamentations 3:23
15	John 5:24
16	Revelation 21:5
17	Ezekiel 11:19
18	Isaiah 43:19
19	Luke 24:36-48
20	Colossians 3:9-10
21	John 6:40
22	John 3:16
23	Colossians 2:12
24	Isaiah 60:1
25	John 6:39
26	1 John 3:16-19
27	Acts 4:8-12
28	Psalm 23:1-6
29	Ephesians 2:4-5
30	John 11:17-27

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Susan Hager opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer.

Present were: Dawn Hellickson, Susan Kiehne, Susan Hager, Brad Leather, Kristen Bunge and Pastor Dan

Absent were: Rebecca Schwingle and Dave Harrison

This was a brief meeting due to the COVID-19 virus. Team Highlights and Reports were not reviewed.

New Business:

On behalf of the Property Team, Brad Leathers made a motion to purchase an Auto Tile Floor Scrubber machine out of 2020 funds rather than 2021 as budgeted. Kristen Bunge made the motion which was seconded by Brad Leathers, and approved by all. The estimated cost of the machine is \$3,600.00 and will be taken from the memorial of Shirley Hanning.

Brad also made a motion to increase Danny Grabau's credit card limit from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00. Kristen made the motion which was seconded by Susan Hager, and approved by all. Dawn will provide a copy of the minutes to F&M Bank and request Danny's limit be adjusted accordingly.

Pastor Dan has done an outstanding job keeping the members and council informed of the changes in the church restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are unable to predict when church activities may return to somewhat normal, so we will encourage members to check in every couple weeks. During this time Amanda will continue to staff the office, however, we will not maintain office coverage on Fridays.

Did you know for April:

Martin Luther dealt with the Black Death plague and wrote in his first sentence, "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us."

Pastor's Report:

See Pastoral Letter in Response to COVID-19 and Notice posted online- both handouts.

Worship will stream online in some form. Maybe live, maybe pre-recorded. Service will continue to be broadcast on KFIL each week.

Considering posting daily devotions and mid-week Lenten reflections.

Also exploring hosting Council meetings, Bible study and maybe even worship using Zoom or other video conferencing software.

Bible study using the Bible App starts tomorrow. About 12 are currently signed up.

Giving options to consider. Text, online, Simply Giving, mail in? New online giving company based out of Rochester called 4giving (www.4giving.com). They provide an

online donation platform for non-profits and charge no fees for the transactions that go through their system (normal credit card fees still apply 2.9% + 30 cents - charged by our payment processor Stripe). The goal of 4giving is to help non-profits create fundraisers with little to no work, have a simple donation landing page and provide an alternative to other companies that are charging fees.

How can we be sure someone is checking in on all our elderly members and isolated community members? Call chains? Call your page of the directory? Christ Lutheran Care team?

How might we better reach out to our community? Keep an ear out for community needs.

Remember that the church cannot be cancelled, because church is not a building, it is a people. We are the church. Now more than ever, we need to BE the church, caring for each other, spreading hope and kindness, and praying for our world, nation and local community. We have an incredible opportunity to care for people in need and show the world that our faith makes a difference.

If you have any needs or know of people who can use phone calls, meal deliveries, medicine, or even TP, let us know and we as a church can help provide for those needs. We will get through this together.

Never forget that Jesus is with us and He will lead us through this crisis. May we fully place our trust and hope in Him.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 15, @ 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted via audio/video conferencing. Pastor Dan and Kristen will coordinate the technology.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Hellickson, President

others. That doesn't mean say a prayer and then act foolishly- like a guy who doesn't wear his seatbelt because he prayed for God to keep him safe while driving. No! Trust in God *and* wear your seatbelt- something God provided to keep you safe. Likewise, trust in God and wash your hands- because soap and water are things God provided to keep you safe. When we stop worrying and start praying, we open our hearts and minds to Jesus, and learn to become more like Him. We release the heavy burdens we carry and the fears that overwhelm us, exchanging those things for his peace and love. This not only comforts us, but also frees us to care for the people around us.

Beloved, worry is a choice we make—as is panic or remaining calm. We can choose how we will respond during this difficult time. Jesus can help us respond in the right way, with faith and not fear, with calmness instead of panic, with a spirit of love and compassionate care for our neighbors instead of selfishness and hoarding.

Years from now our children are much more likely to remember how we adults *responded* to this virus than what happened out in the world. We need to teach them resilience, faithfulness and the importance of remaining calm instead of allowing fear, anxiety and panic to control our behaviors. I heard a great Mr. Rogers quote this week. He said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” We can be those helpers. Now more than ever, we need to BE the church, caring for each other, spreading hope and kindness, praying for our world, nation and local community. We have an incredible opportunity to care for people in need and show the world that our faith makes a difference- just like the early church did.

This is not the first time Christians have faced diseases. In Biblical times, epidemics regularly decimated cities and regions. Though ancient people did not understand the germ theory of disease, they knew enough to flee cities, if they had the means to do so. But the early Christians did not flee the plagues. They stayed, and they cared for the sick and dying. Their love and compassion and sacrifice was a huge contributor to the growth of the church in its first 200 years of existence. After someone had recovered, where would they want to worship? The pagan temple whose priests and elite benefactors had fled at the first sign of trouble? Or with the neighbor who had brought them food and water, caring for them at great risk to themselves?

When this pandemic has passed, what will our neighbors remember we did? Did we react in fear? Did we panic like so many and make selfish decision that harmed others? Or will they remember that their Christian neighbors remained calm, helped care for the needy (while using appropriate cautions) and worked to bring hope to their community?

Church, this is a scary and uncertain time, but there is no reason to expect COVID-19 to be the “end of the world”. We don't have to be running around like chicken little yelling the sky is falling, the sky is falling.

Instead, it is a time to be both wise and compassionate, trusting in the Lord, taking precautions and facing whatever today and tomorrow bring, without anxiety. Therefore, *Do Not Be Afraid*, we will get through this together- as we remain calm and do our best to keep our focus on Jesus, remembering that there is nothing in all of creation that separate us from his love- not fear, not panic, not canceled events or stock market losses, not coronavirus, not even death. May we be brave, wise, compassionate, safe and loving, making the most of this opportunity to BE the church that Jesus created us to be. Amen

Fabric Face Masks Information-

Locally Focused Individuals are calling on any and all who can sew to make Fabric Face Masks for individuals during the Coronavirus pandemic. The masks will be available for distribution in the Preston community with the possibility to donate to Olmsted Medical Center and other healthcare services depending on participation. The masks will be available for individuals to pick up at the church free of charge.

We have enough fabric for now but are in need of elastic! If you have extra 1/4 or 1/8-inch elastic please drop it off at the church. There is a container for elastic donations **and** a box for the Fabric Face Masks in the Narthex (right inside the door on the bench to the left).

If you are wanting a face mask, please take one.

This is important

This mask does not offer 100% protection from any bacteria/virus; however, it does offer some protection. People can get infected by touching their mouth and nose with their contaminated hands, the masks will help avoid this. These masks are machine washable and **should be** washed after daily use.

In addition to wearing the Fabric Face Masks, you should always wash your hands with warm water and soap! Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not readily available.

The Pattern

***It may be helpful to watch the video from Deaconess. This was shared on CLC's Facebook page by Pastor Dan and Carol S. You will need to log into Facebook to see this video. The link to the video

is: <https://www.facebook.com/100000132786169/posts/3315567648457629/?d=n>

How to make a Face Mask

You will need tightly-woven cotton fabric. When choosing a design, please remember that children, women, and men will wear these masks.

Cotton flannel for the backing

1/4" or 1/8" flat braided elastic

Cut the elastic 7" long for adult or 5" for children (you'll need 2 pieces for each mask)

You can make 2 sizes: Adult (9"x6") or Child (8"x5")

1. Put right sides of cotton and flannel fabric together.

2. Starting at the center of bottom edge sew to the first corner, stop. Sew end of elastic to corner. (Be sure to tuck the elastic inside between the two layers when sewing). A few stitches forward and back will hold the elastic.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of that same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across the top of the mask to the next corner. And repeat #2 to the corner.
5. Sew to next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out. The elastic should be a "U" shape on both short ends of the mask.
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask. Make sure the tucks are the same direction.
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.

The masks are fairly simple to make. After you do a couple of them, you'll get the hang of it.

Instructions for Individuals sewing the masks for distribution:

Please wash the fabric mask with warm soapy water and thoroughly dry in dryer. Place individual masks in a sealed plastic bag and drop off at CLC.

****If you have any questions, please contact Carol Solberg by email at carolsolberg59@hotmail.com or text 507-421-5901. We are waiting on an order of elastic. Once this arrives, we will try to put together some kits and have them available at the church with instructions. Please contact Amanda or Carol if you would like to make a donation towards materials.

Thank you.

FYI:

"The role of the facemasks is for patient source control, to prevent contamination of the surrounding area when a person coughs or sneezes". Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should wear a facemask until they are isolated in a hospital or at home. The patient does not need to wear a facemask while isolated. The CDC further advises that individuals who are not sick do not need to wear a facemask unless caring for someone who is ill.

The FDA does not have specifications for the homemade masks, but the DIY masks many in the country are crafting are most like the loose-fitting surgical masks.

The FDA states that when properly worn, surgical masks are "meant to help block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs (viruses and bacteria), keeping it from reaching your mouth and nose"

The FDA added, however, that a surgical mask "by design, does not filter or block very small particles in the air that may be transmitted by coughs, sneezes, or certain medical procedures."

USA Today