

# Christ Lutheran Church

## IN TOUCH

**November 2019**

### **From Pastor Miller**

The fall and winter months bring more than changing weather. There is a change in the rhythm of the days, shorter daylight hours moving toward the darker days of winter. Harvest, too, concludes; the fields once green and lush now lie fallow, resting from a vigorous growing season. In contrast, excitement begins to fill our lives as Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here.

All Saints Sunday is November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the festival when we remember those who have gone before us. They are now part of "the great cloud of witnesses" described in the Letter to the Hebrews. During worship, names of congregational members and loved ones who have died since All Saints Day last year are lifted up in prayer. It is a solemn, but joyful celebration of the promise given in baptism of God's never failing love for us through Jesus Christ.

Although a national holiday, Thanksgiving is a time when families come together for a meal and to give thanks for the countless blessings from God. It has become a recent tradition to collect a "Thankoffering," but we can also volunteer our time to a community meal or donate food items to a local food pantry. There are various ways to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Christ the King (November 24<sup>th</sup>) completes the Pentecost season and the church year. It is a festival that lifts the lordship of Jesus as ruler of the universe. This year for Christ the King, the gospel reading is from Luke 23:33-43, Jesus on the cross with two criminals on either side. In this story, one criminal "derides" Jesus to save himself and the two. The other criminal "rebukes" the other criminal, then asks Jesus to remember him in his kingdom. Jesus responds, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

The First Sunday of Advent (December 1<sup>st</sup>) begins a new church year. Advent is often overlooked by a culture so focused on the "traditions" Christmas. Advent Calendars help us observe the days of Advent leading to Christmas with devotional readings or suggested acts of charity. The Advent Wreath is set up and the candles are lit each week as the light of Christ increases pushing back the darkness of winter that surrounds us.

Christmas, The Nativity of Our Lord, is the festival we anticipate or dread the most. It is a festival of joy in the Christ Child, but it can also be a time of grief as we remember loved ones or traumatic events in our lives. It can be a lonely time. As we share our Christmas greetings, let us do so in the way they are intended, to share the love of God displayed to us in the incarnation, the birth of Jesus.

It's a busy time, yet taking time for our spiritual lives in worship, prayer, meditation, or devotion makes it less hectic.

Peace,  
Pastor Craig

---

### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Christ Lutheran: Tuesday Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am to Noon

Washington Lutheran: Tuesday, 2:30 to 4:30pm; Friday, 9:00am to Noon

## Christ Lutheran Church Women

**QUILTING** continues every Tuesday at 1:00PM here at the church. Anyone is welcome to join in. Come check it out!

**THANK OFFERING SERVICE** will be held Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00PM. The Soup Supper begins at 6:00PM.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT** will not be held during November.

**THE WINNERS ARE ...** The ladies sold raffles on two quilts and the winners were chosen October 20, at the Annual Auction. The raffle made \$315.00. The winners are Mary Lou Mickelson and Sondra Schwanz! Congrats!

## Feed My Starving Children

The mobile pack will be in town Saturday, December 7, at the Community Christian School Gymnasium. Time will be announced later. A sign-up sheet will be available for volunteering to fill food packets. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile event. M&M containers will be available. Once you enjoy the m&m's, fill the containers with quarters (about \$14 worth) or cash or check in any amount to be given to Feed My Starving Children.

## Mick McBride, Council President

A few quick items from the Lay Council.

As I noted during Church, treasury has a small amount that we can do some maintenance projects around the church and parsonage. If you have some ideas on what we should try to accomplish please let me or any one of the council members know, and we will consider each idea with the funds we have available.

Also, we have at least one member stepping down from the council at the end of the year, we could certainly use some new ideas and would love to have another member. It is one Monday evening a month, and I do not require homework (so that's a plus). Please give this ministry some consideration.

Last thing for this month. November is a time set aside for appreciating our blessings. In my opinion the best way to show your appreciation for a gift is to share it. We have all been blessed with God's love, generosity and mercy. So an easy way to show our appreciation for his blessings on us is to share that with another. Do something nice for someone who does not expect it.

Love you all, see you in church.

## FOOD BASKET CHALLENGE CONTINUES

Last year Christ Lutheran Church and Washington Lutheran Church participated in a friendly completion called the "Food Basket Challenge." This was a fun way to collect food and non-food items for The Lord's Cupboard, The Salvation Army, and The Beacon of Hope. Once again the members of Christ Lutheran Church have an opportunity to participate in the Food Basket Challenge during the weeks of October 6th through November 10th. Baskets will be available to fill with nonperishable grocery items and paper products. One household or a combination of households may join together in filling a basket. Won't you take up the challenge?

# Lay Council Ministry Minutes

Christ Lutheran Church Lay Ministry Council met October 14, 2019.

Those present were: President Mick McBride, Joyce Hanson, Jan Bowers, Liz Lombard, Sue Kraff, Jerry Kraff and Pastor Miller.

**MOTION** carried to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019, Lay Ministry Council Meeting. (Sue, Liz)

## Pastor's Report

- There were no hospitalizations
- Pastoral Care Visitations
- Healing Liturgy - December 22
- Gospel Song Sunda - 3rd Sunday of each month
- Passing the peace is now on hold for cold and flu season
- Tri-Synodical Fall Convocation September 22-24
- All Saints Sunday - November 4

**MOTION** to approve the Financial Secretary/Treasurer Report for September. (Joyce, Liz)

## Other Reports

- Supper at the Beacon of Hope - Nov. 4
- Food Basket Challenge: Oct 6 - Nov 10 (It was agreed to give to the Lord's Cupboard)
- Auditor's Equalization Notice (Information Only)

## Ongoing Business

- Joint Executive Council Meeting with Washington Lutheran Church. Mick will contact Don at WLC to schedule.
- LifeLine Health Screening at CLC October 17
- Church Potluck/Auction - Oct 20 beginning at 5:00pm
- Annual Congregational Meetings: Budget Planning to be discussed at Nov meeting.  
Budget and Election Meeting 12/8/2019  
Congregational Report Meeting 1/26/2020
- Feed My Starving Children Special Collection (Sue will get M&M's from Sams)

## New Business

- Health Benefit Election for 2020
- Church Custodians - The Conrads wish to retire. (Mick's daughter, Kate, may be interested)
- Mick will call the snow removal person

Next meeting will be November 11, 2019, at 7:00pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Joyce Hanson  
LMC Secretary, Pro Tem

**SIGN UP SHEETS** - are in the hallway. Please consider volunteering to Read, Usher, or supply Flowers.

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** - The Oct/Nov/Dec issue is available in the fellowship hall.

**MAILBOXES & BULLETIN BOARDS** - Please remember to check these for information.

**DIRECTORY UPDATES** - If you have a change of information, let us know so that it may be updated.

**LORD'S CUPBOARD** - The Lord's Cupboard is always in need of pantry items. Please give generously.

## November 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### A Growing Family

Lindsey and Andrea were no strangers to foster parenting. Their older brother fostered children for 10 years, and they were inspired by his drive and passion for supporting vulnerable children. Until recently, they hadn't seen themselves as foster parents. But something in their hearts told them they were needed.

"It's been on our hearts for a lot of years, and we have the room and love," Andrea says. "It's something we knew we could do and it's needed."

The two sisters decided to become licensed foster parents earlier this year through LSI Foster Care and Adoption. Now, they are caring for children in foster care at the same time. Lindsey and Andrea regularly meet up to support one another and ensure the children can connect and feel less alone during the most vulnerable time in their young lives.

"It's been so important to have a connection to another foster family," Lindsey says. "The kids can see they're not different. There are other children in their same situation."

Meanwhile, they are busy building a strong bond with the children's birth families. Lindsey says foster parenting is a way for them to give a child stability while also nurturing their whole family.

Lindsey and Andrea have also found support from other local foster families. They are there for each other, offering a shoulder to lean on when anyone needs an extra boost on the difficult days.

"There is a need for foster families in Iowa, and there is so much good that comes out of fostering," Andrea says.

*"For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev-'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God." (ELW #679)*

# November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<p><b>READERS</b>                      11/3 Mick McBride                      11/10 Marolyn Hill                      11/17 Marolyn Hill                      11/24 Marolyn Hill</p> <p><b>USHERS</b>                      Bruce &amp; Marolyn Hill  <b>ALL MONTH</b></p>					<p><b>ALTAR GUILD</b>                      Bruce &amp; Marolyn Hill</p> <p><b>FLOWERS</b>                      11/3 Ken &amp; Eileen Samuelson In memory of Jeanette Dencklau                      11/10 Jan Bowers in Memory of all Venterans                      11/17 Liz Lombard In Memory of her Dad, Merlin                      11/24 Jan Bowers in Memory of her husband, Larry.</p>		1	2
3 9:00AM Worship Holy Communion  Coffee: Church Council	4 5:00PM BEACON OF HOPE MEAL	5 10:30AM Clergy Text Study  1:00PM Quilting	6 6:30PM Confirmation At WLC	7	8	9		
10 9:00AM Worship Benevolence Sunday  Coffee: Women's Circle	11 7:00PM Lay Ministry Council	12 10:30AM Clergy Text Study  1:00PM Quilting  2:00PM Pastor at Marion Home	13 6:30PM Confirmation at WLC	14 Fort Dodge Forum	15 Pastor Craig on Vacation	16 Pastor Craig on Vacation		
17 9:00AM Worship Gospel Song Sunday  Coffee: Altar Guild  Pastor Craig on Vacation	18	19 10:30AM Clergy Text Study  1:00PM Quilting	20 6:30PM Confirmation at WLC	21	22	23		
24 9:00AM Worship  Coffee: OPEN	25	26 10:30AM Clergy Text Study  1:00PM Quilting	27 6:00PM Soup Supper 7:00PM Thank Offering Service	28 Thanksgiving Day  	29 Church Office Closed	30		

## **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2220 10th Ave, N  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Phone: (515) 576-4925  
Email: christlutheranfd@gmail.com  
Website: www.christlutheranfd.org

Rev. Craig D. Miller, Pastor  
Mick McBride, Council President

### **In Our Prayers**

Kate McBride (home)  
Heidi Janssen (home)  
Bonnie Byro (FD Health & Rehab)  
Luella Jensen (home)  
Alan Johnson (home)  
Alvin Dencklau (home)  
Eleanor Kullberg (Villa Care)  
Jeff Johnson (son of Russ & Evelyn)  
Shirley Tatum (FD Heath & Rehab)  
Lydia Becker (home)  
Eileen Samuelson (home)

### *Occasions to Celebrate*

#### **November Birthdays**

11/2 Craig Miller  
11/8 Stacy Davies  
11/9 Janice Bowers  
11/12 Mike Tilton  
11/21 Nathan Harp  
11/26 Colleen Dencklau

#### **November Anniversaries**

11/21 Dave & Judy Zoch (2007)  
11/28 Richard & Bert Zahrobsky (1984)

*“A friendly, caring church extending the love of Jesus to all.”*