

Christ Lutheran Church

In Touch

April 2020

From Pastor Craig

1 *Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.*

2 *Lord, hear my voice!*

*Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!*

3 *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?*

4 *But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.*

5 *I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;*

6 *my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.*

7 *O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.*

8 *It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. (Psalm 130)*

What a difference a month can make. Then, I was making mental plans for Lent and thinking what needs to be done for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Easter. Now we are in the middle of a pandemic. As I write, our country's Surgeon General is saying that the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 is going to get worse, much worse. By direction of Governor Kim Reynolds, we are not gathering for worship. We may cancel worship for weather, but we've never needed to cancel due to the spread of a virus—this is unfamiliar. Practicing social distancing gets long even for the most introverted introverts!

The anxiety of not knowing is wearisome. We become concerned about most things we have taken for granted, like toilet paper. Who would have thought? Local businesses are threatened by not being able to do business. Our neighbors may experience economic hardship because their place of employment is closed due to coronavirus. Schools are out for a month or more. It's an anxious time, and we depend on our leadership.

The congregational leadership at both Christ Lutheran and Washington Lutheran are doing their best to deal with the situation. This is all very new. Not one of us has experience in leadership during a pandemic. But that doesn't mean give up. We are still the church. There are ways to adapt. So we use what is familiar and what is new. We can pick up the phone and call to check-in with other members, we keep communication open with mailings (USPS), email, social media, etc.

Ultimately, however, we put our trust and faith in God as the psalmist writes,

*"Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem."*

Pastor Craig

Mick McBride, Council President

Good morning family,

Wow, we are surviving some weird times in the history of our country / world. It is difficult to comprehend an "enemy" that we can't see. I pray that humankind can come through this somehow improved and perhaps more grateful for the gifts we have been given. This definitely has drawn many countries and peoples to a common goal, and that also shows it can be done. I am sorry for this being a little disjointed but I am just trying to get some thoughts out.

We will get back to worship with each other soon. Thanks to Pastor Craig for his Sunday morning broadcast on Facebook, I appreciate him setting that up and making it happen.

As a family, although we are not physically "laying eyes on each other" we can stay in contact with each other. If you are thinking about how someone is doing take a minute and call to see how they are. As I say most every month – Consider giving your time to someone – you are an incredible gift. Hope to see you all soon, if you need me call. My cell is 515-368-5613.

Love to my brothers and sisters

Pray for each other

Mick

With Deep Sympathy,

We were informed of the death of Alvin W. Dencklau on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at his home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. For many years Alvin mowed the church lawn. Alvin will be missed. We offer our condolences to Alvin's family.

Our Congregation's Stewardship

Offerings Received	Undesignated	Designated
Sunday, March 1 st	\$ 821.00	\$ 61.00
Flowers	\$ 100.00	
Sunday, March 8 th	\$ 1,003.80	
Benevolence	\$ 148.00	
Flowers	\$ 21.40	
Wednesday, March 11 th (Lent)	\$ 125.00	
Flowers	\$ 42.80	
Sunday, March 15 th	\$ 610.00	
Flowers	\$ 46.40	
Sunday, March 22 nd (Mailed-in)	\$ 590.00	
Offerings Year to Date*	\$ 8,896.20	\$ 61.00

*Includes Benevolence of \$ 402.00

Christ Lutheran Church Women

The CLC Women are on hiatus as we all take time away from our activities. Quilting Ladies will not meet for the time being. Ladies Night Out is also on hold for a while. Take time to check in with each other. Being socially distant doesn't mean being lonely.

Offerings and Financial Support of Christ Lutheran Church

Many of you have asked, "What should we do about our offerings?" Thank you for asking! Sometimes we take so much for granted that the important questions get overlooked. We are suggesting three ways to continue with your offering gifts:

By mail to the church: Christ Lutheran Church
2220 10th Ave. North
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Or to our Financial Secretary: Ken Samuelson
1151 North 26th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Thank you to everyone who has mailed or dropped off their offering to Christ Lutheran Church.

COVID-19 Information for Congregational Members and Visitors Update 3.25.2020

We continue to uphold directives from Gov. Kim Reynolds' State of Public Health and Disaster Emergency declaration. From the Governor's declaration:

Mass Gathering: *Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of this disaster.*

We also continue to use guidance from the CDC, State Government, Local Health Departments, the ELCA, the Western Iowa Synod, and neighboring congregations.

We will not be holding Sunday worship, Mid-week Lenten services, meetings and other gatherings of any size. Originally we indicated that it might be for the next couple of weeks, but as the coronavirus outbreak continues, it may be much longer than we had hoped.

Yet we do not lose hope. We continue to work toward keeping you connected with your church and to address your spiritual well-being. We had success with Live Streaming Sunday worship using Facebook and providing a replay link on the church's web page at www.christlutheranfd.org.

Since not everyone has access to email or social media, we are working on a weekly supplement and devotion to be mailed to each congregational member. We will try to reach out to as many people as possible, especially our senior members and those who are "high risk."

Remember, if it's not necessary, do not gather at the church. That being said, if there is an emergency, please contact Pastor Craig directly at (712) 540-0069.

We continue to be the church, we are the church. Be mindful of our neighbors. Since we are to practice "Social Distancing," we can still pick up the phone and check in on others.

Lay Ministry Council Meeting Minutes

Christ Lutheran Church Lay Ministry Council met on March 9, 2020.

Those present were: Pres Mick McBride, Sue Kraft, Liz Lombard, Joyce Hanson, Jan Bowers, Brenda Savery & Pastor Miller.

MOTION carried to approve the Minutes of the Feb 10, 2020 Lay Ministry Council Meeting (Joyce, Sue)

Pastor's Report:

- * Pastoral Care Visitations
- * CLC Website Hosting renewed - WordPress.com - \$48
- * Hands of Hope Gathering - 3/1 at Grace Lutheran - Bishop Lorna Halaas, Synod Rep
- * WIS Assembly May 1-2, "See What God is Doing" held in Spencer, IA
- * WIS Assembly 2021 will be held in Fort Dodge
- * Lent began on Feb 26th with Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Lutheran. Wednesday Night Lenten Services will alternate between Christ Lutheran and Washington Lutheran.
- * 2020 vacation: March 16-17

MOTION carried to approve Financial Secretary/Treas Reports for Feb 2020 (Liz, Brenda)

Other Reports

- * Annual Palm Sunday Potato Bake, April 5
- * Monthly Average Attendance Breakdown

Ongoing Business

- * Estimates for Parsonage siding/repairs – Financial Planning
- * RAGBRAI in Fort Dodge July 20
- * Ice Cream Social to possibly be rescheduled? Conflict with RAGBRAI
- * Outreach Ideas for 2020

New Business

- * Bathroom Repairs

Next meeting will be April 13th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Brenda Savery
LMC Secretary

- ◆ **2020 SIGN UP SHEETS** are in the hallway. There are many openings to be filled. Please consider volunteering to Read, Usher or supply Flowers
- ◆ **CHRIST IN OUR HOME** is available in the Fellowship Hall
- ◆ **MAILBOXES / BULLETIN BOARDS** Please check these regularly for information
- ◆ **DIRECTORY UPDATES** If you have a change of information, please let us know so that it may be updated
- ◆ **LORD'S CUPBOARD** is always in need of pantry items. Please give generously!

April 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<u>FLOWERS</u> Delivery suspended until we worship together again			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 9am Worship Live Stream on FaceBook 4pm Baked Potato Buffet	6	7 10:30am Virtual Clergy Text Study	8	9 7pm Maundy Thursday Live Stream on Face- Book	10 7pm Good Friday Worship Live Stream on FaceBook	11
12 EASTER Worship TBA	13	14 10:30am Virtual Clergy Text Study	15	16	17	18
19 Worship TBA	20	21 10:30am Virtual Clergy Text Study	22	23	24	25
26 Worship TBA	27	28 10:30am Virtual Clergy Text Study	29	30	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Bruce & Marolyn Hill - If needed	<u>USHERS</u> Bruce & Marolyn Hill - If needed

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2022 10th Ave, N
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Telephone: (515)
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)
Eleanor Kullberg (Villa Care)
Jeff Johnson (Son of Russ & Evelyn)
Lydia Becker (home)
Eileen Samuelson (home)

OCCASION TO CELEBRATE

April Birthdays

4/4 Liz Lombard
4/9 Paul Becker
4/10 Chrystal Brown
4/17 Charles Schwanz
4/22 Vanessa Brown
4/23 Sondra Schwanz
4/26 Michael Hanrahan
4/30 Caley Bloom

April Anniversaries

4/16 Jason & Elisha Peters (2005)
4/25 Richard & Christine Bloom (1992)
4/26 Mike & Kim Conrad (2008)
4/26 Eric & Lisa Samuelson

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