

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN TOUCH

MAY 2020

PASTOR CRAIG MILLER

Editor's Note: Since the writing of this article, the Christ Lutheran Lay Ministry Council has extended the cancellation of all in-person worship services until May 31, 2020. At that time the decision will be evaluated. On-line services will continue.

"When do you think the church will reopen?" It's a question I've been asked and one I ask myself many times. The short answer is I don't know. I keep thinking of the Advent song, "Soon and Very Soon." That's about all we know about the when. I do, however, have an idea or two about the how. The following list is not in any particular order.

Come to terms with the reality of the situation. We all want things to go back to what it was, but that's looking more unlikely each day. I don't think it is helpful to debate the seriousness of the threat of COVID-19. As your Pastor, I don't want to even consider a possible threat to anyone's health and well being for the sake of a church service or meeting.

Prepare for when we do worship together. When the time comes, and it will, we need to be prepared to gather safely. I think you can agree that when you come to church, you want to feel safe. Everybody does, but until recently we really haven't had to think about it. So before we can gather, the church building needs to be made ready. This means a thorough cleaning and most importantly disinfecting of all surfaces. This will be a big job, so plans will need to be made, and not left to the custodian to figure out.

Adapt to what is needed. This is an ongoing concern. We have been able to offer worship services using the Internet. I jumped into a crash course on Facebook Live. I've learned there is more to it than "How to Live Stream Your Church Service in Four Easy Steps." "Easy" is the tricky word. Thank you for your patience. But this doesn't solve all of our problems. We have a number of church members who do not use Facebook or have Internet access, so they are left out. As we eventually gather for worship, some may choose to keep distancing themselves, so we may continue to video worship and find a way to distribute it to everyone.

Be flexible in our expectations. Frustration often gets the better part of us. You may not get to sit in your favorite spot or next to your friends. For example, the pew seating space at Christ Lutheran is nine and a half feet. That means two people maybe or two couples can sit in one pew with six feet of space between them. Then it would also mean we can only use every other pew.

Be mindful of the needs of others (not just ourselves). I have thought of the Apostle Paul's words to the Philippians, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (2:4). When we gather again, some may choose to stay away for a little longer, feeling safe is important. Respect that. If at church, we respect the six feet of distance between us. If you don't feel well, stay home. If you have one, wear a mask. Use sanitizer and wash your hands often. These are not hard or an imposition (maybe inconvenient), but if it helps you to feel safe in your church, in God's house, I'm all about that.

I miss you all very much and I look forward to the time when we can be together again.

Pastor Craig

COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MIKE MCBRIDE

Hello Family,

Well, this is something I certainly had not prepared myself for when I looked ahead at the beginning of the New Year. This is something that has not been felt in the world to this scale in centuries. Without disputing the method of fighting this virus, it has been disrupting to all aspects of daily life.

As a CLC family member, I certainly miss my brothers and sisters, and I look forward to being with you again soon. I appreciate all that Pastor Craig has done to share the gospel with us.

Now with my Lay Council President hat on... As you can imagine we are down some with giving since this started. It has not been as bad as I feared but the checkbook balance is going down. Having a balance has felt good "in case we had an emergency" (I think we may be there). If we could get a few more people to still contribute their weekly donation maybe, we can come out of this without too much damage.

The need to pay our monthly bills is still intact. We have missed one of our fund-raising events of the year in the Potato Bake, and we still have some significant repair work to do on the parsonage and church proper. I know this letter is more than a little disjointed, but I hope that you get my sense of urgency. If your family has continued to contribute, I sincerely appreciate it. If it has slipped your mind please consider starting to contribute at least something.

No matter, I love and miss my CLC family and hope to see you on Sunday morning very soon!

Mick

LAY MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Christ Lutheran Church Lay Ministry Council met via Zoom on April 13, 2020.

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

MOTION carried to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Lay Ministry Council Meeting (Sue, Pastor)

Pastor's Report:

- Pastoral Care Visitations via phone calls
- Lenten Services discontinued. Sunday morning worship services as well as Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services have been live streamed through Facebook Live.
- WIS Assembly May 1-2, canceled, the refund/donation of registration fee was discussed
- weekly Zoom meetings with Bishop Lorna
- 2020 vacation: March 16-17

MOTION carried to approve Financial Secretary/Treas Reports for March 2020 (Brenda, Joyce)

Other Reports

- Annual Palm Sunday Potato Bake – canceled/postponed
- Council discussed Care Act- Paycheck Protection Program. Pastor will contact CCCU
- E-giving options were discussed, No action at this time
- Coronavirus COVID 19
- Stewardship in a time of Pandemic

Ongoing Business

- RAGBRAI in Fort Dodge July 20 – on hold at this time
- Ice Cream Social to possibly be rescheduled? Conflict with RAGBRAI?

Next meeting will be May 11th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Brenda Savery
LMC Secretary

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Happy May Day</i>	2 
3 9am Worship Via FaceBook	4	5 10:30am Clergy Zoom Text Study	6	7	8	9
10 9am Worship Via FaceBook <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	11 7pm Lay Ministry Council Zoom Meeting	12 10:30am Clergy Zoom Text Study	13	14	15	16
17 9am Worship Via Facebook	18	19 10:30am Clergy Zoom Text Study	20	21	22	23
24 9am Worship Facebook 9am Worship Facebook 31	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	26 10:30am Clergy Zoom Text Study	27	28	29	30

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

UNDESIGNATED

DESIGNATED

Sunday, March 29	\$680.00	
Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday)	\$745.00	
Sunday, April 12 (Easter)	\$2,515.00	(Thrivent Choice) \$69.00
Benevolence	\$70.00	
Sunday, April 19	\$720.00	
Offerings Year to Date*	\$13,696.20	\$130.00

*Includes Benevolence of \$472.00

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2022 10th Ave, N
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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

OCCASIONS TO CELEBRATE

May Birthdays

5/3 Sue Kraft
5/5 Henry McCubbin
5/6 David Kraft
5/6 Kristin Conrad
5/10 Nathan McCubbin
5/14 Garrett Savery
5/22 Wayne Chinander
5/25 Dennis Hewett
5/30 Desmond McCubbin

May Anniversaries

5/13 Tim & Kellie Guderian (2000)
5/28 Pastor Craig & Carmin Miller (1977)

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