

the Cornerstone

JANUARY 2020

Is Christianity Confusing?

Is Christianity confusing? Why do some Christians go to church and some do not? Why are there so many different Christian denominations? Why is it hard for people to talk about their faith? Why are there so many different ways to worship? Why is there so much guilt in being a Christian? Why is Christianity always in question by the world?

The world and people are confusing and convoluted. Life is messy, but Christianity is not. Christianity is the simple message that we cannot attain real life and peace on our own, but that God has brought it to us in Jesus!

From the moment in the garden, the world was infected with doubt and despair, "Did God, really say...?" "Is God holding something out on you?" Instead of being creatures, people, who simply trusted God, we became people who

feel they had to attain things and meet their needs without God. We even had to show God we were worthy of his attention.

For most everyone, it seems, we mostly go through life trying to figure it out. It seems that is what life is about. How to climb up the ladder, how to relate, and it seems like a fearful struggle. But for the Christian, life comes to a point of a new beginning. Suddenly God makes His unconditional and perfect love known to us. Somehow God invades our world, and miraculously reaches out to us in love. We respond by loving Him back.

But that love we need from God is like daily bread, like manna. It is only good for a day. Rather than just waiting for the manna and considering the true source of the bread, we feel we must go search for it, and the whole confusing thing starts again "Does God

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Our vision is that our monthly newsletter, **The Cornerstone**, from Christ Lutheran will become a meaningful tool to remind you who you are in Jesus, that you are not alone but are part of the body of Christ. That you are Christ's, that you are his beloved. That he comes to pour his goodness into your life, so you can bless others! Peter writes, "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who puts his trust in Him, will never be put to shame." 1Peter 2:6 Committing ourselves and our decisions to Christ is the way of life! We hope you use your newsletter to enrich your life. Share it with a neighbor and invite them to know Jesus through our church.



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really care for us or must I do something?"

Christianity is easily and tragically turned into something, like the world, a place of struggle... go find it, claim it, protect it, and look to yourself. But Christianity is excellent and simple, "Because God first loved us, we love God!" We are not the source of love nor can we go get it. We are solar reflectors or solar collectors. We are like the moon, we reflect light, or we are like a solar panel that takes God's love and turns it into something that is needed by others. The most important thing we do each day is remind ourselves of how God is the true source of life, and love. We simply come to the table and receive. We need to be re-charged and not live by human effort but by the Spirit.

The most important thing each day in our life is to know that God is pouring out His love on us, that He is with us, that He is working, that He always has the means to do what we need. The most important thing is for us to reflect that love back to God and to others. It is the cycle of growth and glory. To abound in His love and to abound in love for one another. Jesus said this, "By this, others will know that you are truly my disciples, by your love for one another."

What if every thought you had during the

day was about how much God truly loved you and was with you? What if every one of our thoughts was brought captive to whether it spoke the truth about God loving you? Paul wrote the letter of Romans as his great joy! Because there he teaches us to know God's love in every circumstance and to live in it.

As we begin a new year together, there are so many exciting things that will happen. But we know one truth, Christianity is not confusing, people need God's love most in life. We need God's love most in life. Every day we will receive His love and we will love God, and we will love each person we meet.

As we begin this New Year of 2020, I would like to invite you to do a study of Romans with me, not by trying to understand everything in it, but simply how it reveals God's great love for us, and what a power house of life and love we have in Christianity!

Happy New Year! God has always had his hand upon you, know His touch today.

Pastor Ron Boettner

Financial Update for Christ Lutheran

As God's stewards of his provisions we do not look with fear as to how much we have or how much we have spent. We know God provides us with all the things we need to do His mission. But we ask ourselves, "What are we doing and why? Are we investing and supporting things that spread God's love? Are we being open to being directed by the Lord? Are we becoming more aware of what the mission is that God wants us to share and do?"

As God provides more, we also want to have a heart of thankfulness and a heart for really serving God's people. We are the clay and God is the Great Potter shaping us into vessels that bring him glory (and bring us joy in Him!) During November \$27,000 and December \$30,000 our offerings have been strong, and probably have us in the black for 2019. Our expenses for November and December have been according to the budget. Thanks, as always for your cheerful giving!

As the church council leads our congregation during the year 2020, we will have many opportunities to really draw near to God and to serve Him, and as well, we will also have many opportunities to serve ourselves. Which will we choose? How exciting is it to trust God and see all that He does?

Verse for the Month

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love." John 15:9-10

Serving Team Orange – January Schedule



Readers

Jan 5 Danielle Thomas
Jan 12 Val Homuth
Jan 19 Becky KenKnight
Jan 26 Jean Flatten

Leader: Renee Burrows

Ushers

Jan 5 Brian Warzetha
Jan 12 Tom Zulkosky, Brian Warzetha
Jan 19 Tom Zulkosky
Jan 26 Tom Zulkosky

Leader: _____

Greeters

Jan 5 Larry & Nancy Wood
Jan 12 Gene & Mary Couser
Jan 19 _____
Jan 26 Val Homuth

Leader: Nancy Wood

Altar Care

Jan 5 Jean Flatten
Jan 12 Julie Doyle
Jan 19 _____
Jan 26 Nancy Wood

Leader: Jean Flatten

Coffee Servers

Jan 5 Greg Rietow
Jan 12 Val Homuth, Shawn Stout
Jan 19 Ron & Karleen Boettner
Jan 26 Shari Rennebohm, Shawn Stout

Leader: Greg Rietow

Clicker

Jan 5 Mark Mundahl
Jan 5 Paula Weis
Jan 19 Barb Carlson
Jan 26 _____

Leader: Mark Mundahl

Serving Teams - We encourage every member to serve our congregation by being on a serving team.

ORANGE - serving in October, January, April, and July

YELLOW - serving in September, December, March, and June

BLUE - serving in November, February, May, and August

Sign ups are at the Christ Corner Bulletin Board by the Fireside Room.

The Sign up sheets for February and March are ready.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	31	Wed	1	Thu	2	Fri	3	Sat	4
				New Year's Day Office Closed				OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am - Men's Prayer			

9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	9am - Quilting 6:30pm - Prayer Service 7:30pm - Memorial	6:30pm - GriefShare	7	5pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	8	9am - Charis Women's 1:30pm - Busy 6:30pm - Staff Support 7pm - Furnishings	9	OFFICE CLOSED	10	11
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9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	9am - Quilting 11:30am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - GriefShare	13	14	5pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	15	9am - Charis Women's 7pm - COUNCIL	16	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am - Men's Prayer	17	18
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9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9am - Quilting 6:30pm - GriefShare	20	21	5pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	22	9am - Charis Women's 6:30pm - Vision Team	23	OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm - Potluck & Bunco	24	25
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9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	9am - Quilting 11:30am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Worship & Music	27	28	6:30pm - GriefShare	29	6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	30	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am - Men's Prayer	31	1
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Happy New Years!

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our sweet Jesus. Thank you to all who made Christmas a special time; those who helped decorate the church, provided special music, to our children and their leaders who provided a heartwarming Christmas program, our organists, our choir and choir director, sound board operator, clickers, CLW for serving the traditional Lutefisk dinner, the list goes on and on.

As we look forward to the New Year, we are eagerly anticipating worshipping together and reaching out to our community to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to them. Vision Team will continue to inspire us and to bring Kingdom DNA into our church life, Mission and Outreach is making plans to host fellowship time for the extended community, expanding our Bible studies so more are able to participate, painting/remodeling the church, Love Out Loud Concert, trip to Puerto Rico in July (how exciting!) and plans to develop a Young Adult Fellowship group; just a few year-long plans for 2020. The council members are always available to all, please feel free to discuss ideas you may have to enhance our worship and our community outreach.

Please keep our church, church leaders, our nation and its' leaders, and our church members in your prayers. Prayer is the most important thing any of us can do – prayer develops a relationship with our Father – He is on our side!

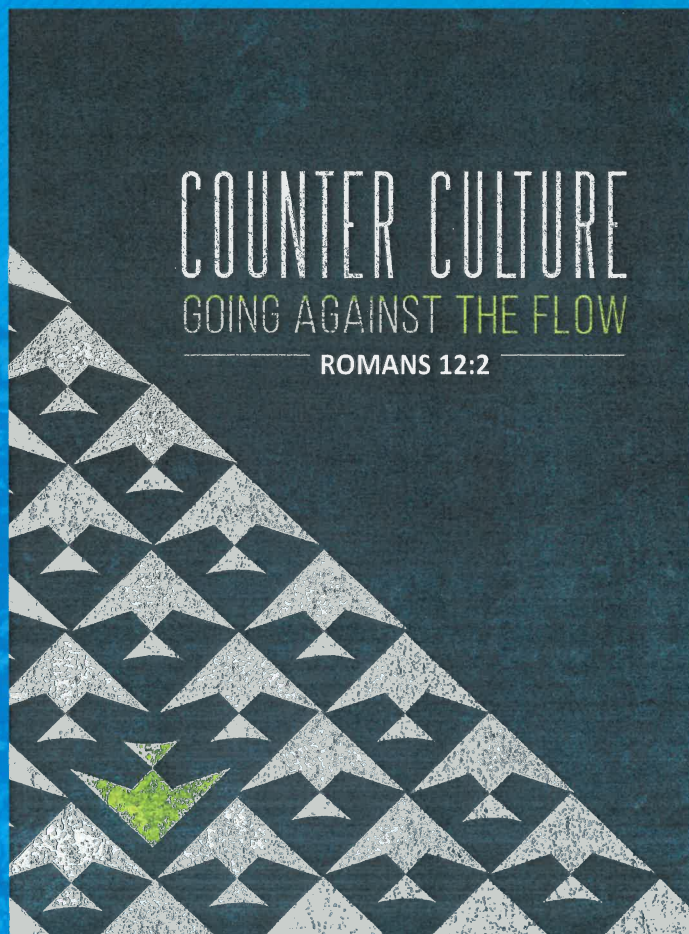
In Christ's Love,

Nancy

Council President

Share Your Faith Story!

Do you have a testimony of what God has done in your life and you would like to share that in the Cornerstone with the congregation? Please send us your story.



Serving Team Joy!

The most important part of serving; altar care, reading, ushering, greeting, coffee serving, and yes, even clicking is to do it with joy that comes from the love of the Lord. We have 80 people serving in various ways. Part of the serving teams is to be supporting each other.

Do you know who is on your team of ushers or readers? Do you know who your leader is? Have you asked anyone to join your team? Are you bringing energy to your team?

Remember we are not serving for ourselves, but for our neighbor and for our Lord!

Thanks for growing in the Lord!

Pastor Ron

Daily Readings for Knowing God's Love

From Paul's letter to the Romans!

We read the bible daily to lay in God's sunshine and get a tan!

As you read each day - see, hear, and decide how much God loves you. See how Paul speaks of how God reveals his love, even for himself. Pick a spot in your home each day and commune with the One who truly loves you. We will be sending out a daily email of encouragement and how to understand how Paul is trying to show God's incredible love and faithfulness in all situations. The goal is that you may have a superb confidence in God's love for you and the world.

For the Days of January

9 Romans 1:1-17	20 Romans 6:15-23
10 Romans 1:18-32	21 Romans 7:1-6
11 Romans 2:1-16	22 Romans 7:7-13
12 Romans 2:17-29	23 Romans 7:14-25
13 Romans 3:1-20	24 Romans 8:1-8
14 Romans 3:21-31	25 Romans 8:9-17
15 Romans 4:1-15	26 Romans 8:18-27
16 Romans 4:16-25	27 Romans 8:28-39
17 Romans 5:1-11	28 Romans 9:1-18
18 Romans 5:12-21	29 Romans 9:18-29
19 Romans 6:1-14	30 Romans 9:30-33

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 18th

Our Mission Partner for January is Love INC. Please sign up and join with a whole crew of people tying blankets and having homemade soup! 10:00am to noon!

Saturday, January 25th

*Congregational Fun and Fellowship Night
Bunco and Potluck dinner!*

Sunday, March 8th

Inspiration Point Bible Camp Directors, Greg and Janet Anderson will be with us to share God's word in worship and to share the Mission of I-Point Bible Camp.

Sunday, February 9th

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Choir will join us for worship and brunch!

9:00am Worship ~ 10:15am Brunch

This has always been a great annual worship experience at Christ Lutheran, but last year the choir was snowed out! We had 11 inches of snow and a lot of food to eat! We look forward to this time and pray for God to continue His great work in these guests and in us.

Please sign up for helping to serve the brunch following worship. The sign up has needs for bringing food, drinks, setting tables, serving, and coordinating the brunch. We will ask our confirmands and older youth to help serve.