



Cornerstone

JULY 2020

Jesus is life and change!

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God- not born of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1:10-12

Jesus is change! Just think how much a little virus has changed our world! The covid virus has stopped worship, it has closed down businesses, it has locked up people in their homes, it has broken the economy, it has halted armies of workers and travelers. If the covid virus can change the world just think what Jesus can do!!!

How has the virus really changed your life? Probably the most common response is that we are not seeing our loved ones and are missing them. The second is most likely we are seeing a loss of jobs and income. A recession of some sort seems bound to be around the

corner if we are not experiencing it right now. Thirdly we are invaded by fear at every corner...another virus, a recent surge of new cases, permanent wearing of masks, and no more hugging ever!

How has Jesus changed your life? John writes that the world did not recognize him, their creator. Do we really recognize him as our Lord and creator? The change that Jesus brought was that we can and could become children by a new means not by our heritage or natural birth, not by a king's decree, nor by a husband's command, and not by our own will.. but by the Spirit of God! By faith in Jesus as the divine

God, he was fully God who appeared on earth. To be born again by the Spirit of God!

The change Jesus came to bring into our world is resisted at almost every corner, by those who do not know him and inadvertently even by those who do know him. To those who do not know Jesus, they resist his change by protecting themselves and their interests from him. To those who do know him they forget or lose touch with the new life they have in Him. Jesus came to bring a whole new realization of what it means to be God's child. To treat others not according to their similarities or differences to us, but according to how God has loved them, gave himself for them, and for what God calls them to be. Jesus came to change how we see others, and how we try to shape others into our own image. Jesus himself is the change... by changing us into

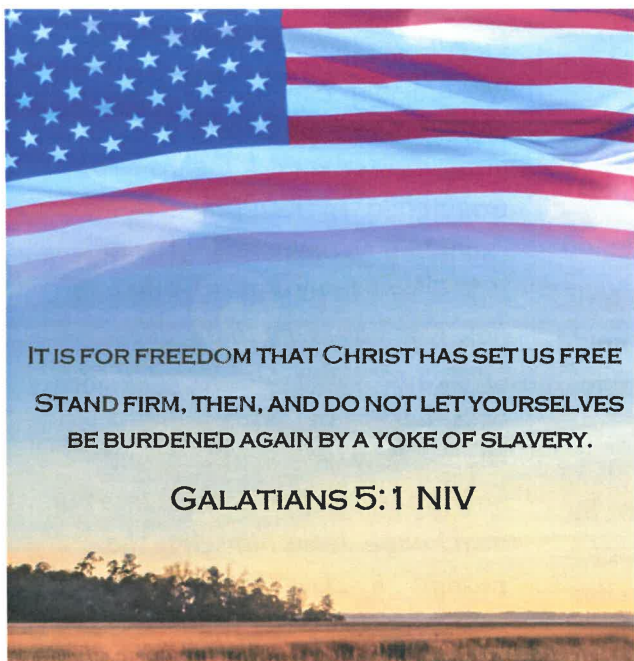
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having a whole new identity and new security in him rather than in ourselves and our circumstances. We encourage others to be free and new in Jesus the Savior.

Every time fear knocks on the door of our lives, our faith and identity in being God's child can strike that fear down. Jesus is alive and He keeps us! Though we walk through the valley of death we fear no evil. RATHER IN Christ we are changed, and we pray through evil, we have empathy for people who are struggling through evil, and we encourage people to know the real living Christ that changes everything. We are changed people, we are not afraid to speak of his goodness, his mercy, his passion, but we seek his face, we spend time with him, and we promote him even when it seems to do little. Because He is the Lord. It is amazing that he came, and people do not recognize him.

He comes even now to change our lives, whether we have been a Christian for a long time or short he comes to change how we see life. He shows us His perspective! Be of good cheer he has overcome the world for you!

Pastor Ron



Serving Team Updates

Just as we were beginning to get the new pattern going on our Serving Teams the covid virus came along and we stopped meeting for regular worship. So here are a couple of important points of why serving teams.

1. Worship is truly a time of forgetting about ourselves and coming to honor and love God. It is a time of serving God and one another. It is a time of being unstuck, set free.

2. The idea of the serving teams is to get people regularly weekly involved with caring for our Christian community and fellowship. We want to involve everyone and especially invite our younger people to be leaders in our worship.

3. There are six basic areas that we list for people to step up and help; reading, greeting, ushering, coffee, altar care, and clicking. If you are unable to do those acts of service, we ask you to be specifically praying for our worship, the people, and our Mission Partners.

Updates on Serving During This Time

Altar Care- Fill five trays with plastic cups, for wine and grape juice, have an empty basket for the used glasses. We have three tables set up: 1 for the pottery chalice and plate, and 1 for the wine and juice trays and 1 for the disposal basket. Pastor Ron is setting up the bread and gluten free wafers. Please wipe the empty trays.

Coffee- We are serving outside, the foam cups blow away, so you have to be careful with them. One person pours the coffee and lemon aid, please put the cookies or bars in a baggie, there are a supply of baggies at church. This just helps people from touching other cookies. Right now, we are going one full pot of regular and one full pot of decaf. We are averaging 75 people.

Greeters and Ushers- We are simply saying hi! From a distance and handing out the worship folders.

Readers – as usual but we are also supplying an introduction to the readings so that people may understand them better.

Clickers- they are back and spring training and waiting for the season to start.

CHRIST LUTHERAN WOMEN – JULY, 2020

We open our hearts to God, by worshiping and hearing His word.
We serve Him and worship in work, by extending our hospitality to others and sharing His word.
ALL THE WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE MEMBERS OF CLW.
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US, YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST.

WE MISS ALL OF YOU!

Our church building has always been a warm, inviting and lively place, and it's so great to see that it is slowly coming back to life! We are so thankful that we can now meet on Sunday mornings for worship, communion, prayer, music, fellowship and, of course, coffee. We look forward to the day when all of us will feel comfortable enough to gather to worship and praise God, and to resume some of our former activities. We are reminded that the Church is NOT just a building – the church is the PEOPLE -YOU!

We pray that you and your family and friends have been well and are staying strong throughout this difficult time. Our God is an AWESOME God and we thank Him daily for our many blessings.!

Many of you have been busy serving God by sewing masks for caregivers and friends, sending encouraging cards or making phone calls to others, and by providing support to those who need assistance during this terrible pandemic. What a wonderful ministry of love! Thank you for your generosity!

AN UPDATE ON OUR CLW PILLOWCASE DRESS PROJECT!



We have some exciting news! Many of you remember and were involved in our Pillowcase Dress Project. While she was in Texas this winter, Virginia Holm met a wonderful lady who lives in Mankato, MN. This woman and her husband are very involved in the Pillowcase Dress Project and she volunteered to take all of CLW's finished dresses, extra fabric and trimmings. They will use the materials to make more dresses, then will drive all the finished products to Michigan, where they will be shipped overseas. This was a fun and worthwhile project and we thank all of you for your generous gifts of materials and labor!

CLW MEETING: 7:00 P.M. ON JULY 13TH!

It's time for us to meet again, to make plans for future events and activities and to just get together to celebrate each other! We will meet **at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, July 13th, in the Church Fellowship Hall.** Dessert, coffee and lemonade will be served. We hope you can join us!

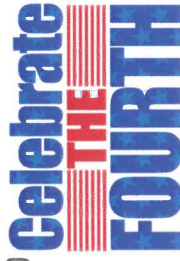
God Bless! Your Sisters in Christ,

Jean Flatten, Val Homuth, Mona Hawkinson & Bonita Heilman

CLC MP, Holidays in United States

Jul 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
31	1	2	3	4	5

Independence Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Independence Day

9am - Worship Service 6:30pm - Prayer Team

6:30pm - Vision Team

OFFICE CLOSED

12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

9am - Worship Service

9am - VBS

7pm - COUNCIL

OFFICE CLOSED

Tax Day

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

9am - Worship Service

6:30pm - Prayer Team

Recycling PU

OFFICE CLOSED

10:30am - Congregational

9am - Worship Service

OFFICE CLOSED

Ideas and Discussion from the Informational Meetings on Calling an Associate Pastor

Key Points;

1. We recognize that we are in a transition as a congregation as our Youth Director Molly Sartor will be leaving in August and taking on a new career in counseling, and that the numbers of youth are lower but the numbers of younger children are increasing.
2. The church council believes that we need to really reach our younger adults and young parents and share the leadership of our congregation with their gifts and callings. It is an opportune time to be on the offensive and add younger pastoral leadership to help grow the congregation.
3. The associate pastor would work with all the congregation but have specific areas of relating to young adults, youth, and children. This is more training than a youth director has. The associate pastor would preach at least once a month and share in regular worship leadership. Both pastors would work with outreach and confirmation.
4. The budget of 2018 was \$280,000 and the budget of 2019 was \$268,000 (No choir director and only a part time youth director). The new budget for 2021 including an Associate Pastor salary would be about \$306,000. This includes a new keyboard person and worship leader and the associate pastor position.
5. We are a congregation that is called to share the gospel and be involved in people's lives and our

community. We are not a bank or a savings program. We trust God to provide what we need, and we realize that our giving over the last few years has increased our savings from \$85,000 to \$132,000. God has already provided.

6. The Associate Pastor would have qualifications for our key values and spiritual beliefs in Jesus. He or she would have theological training in a Lutheran seminary and have experience. The Associate Pastor and Lead Pastor would work as a team and be mindful of triangulations and possible divisions, that congregations and councils have to always be guarding against.

7. The Associate Pastor and his or her family would live in the parsonage. This would be the conditions of the call, until there is the sell of the parsonage or a change approved by the whole congregation. This is one of the means by which we can afford this staffing position. The total reimbursement package for the position would be the full use of the parsonage and a basic salary that the pastor would have to use for their own health benefits. There would be no hidden add on's or expenses.

8. The salary for the Lead Pastor would probably go down a little each year as a way to increase the Associate Pastor's salary on an annual basis. It is the plan of the congregation to have two pastors for the foreseeable future as a means to grow the congregation and to build its ministry. Often a congregation

calls a second pastor as the congregation grows, but it is felt we need to be on the offense and grow the congregation by calling a second pastor.

9. Overall the 55-60 people who came to the two informational meetings were very supportive and at peace with this direction. The desire to have a person there for youth, children, and younger adults and someone to add to the depth of our ministry was highly sought. We ask for prayers and commitment to this new step of ministry for Christ Lutheran Church. We do not desire to try this, but we commit ourselves to making this a success. We will be prayerful, engaging, and open to the newness that God sends us.

CLC Financial Updates

Our Mission Partner for June was Feed My Starving Children and we gave our monthly amount of \$1,830. Our Mission Partner for July will be KTIS radio.

Our offerings for May were noticeably down \$17,500 from our monthly average of \$21,500. For the year, our expenses are below budget about \$4,500. The total giving through May is \$94,000, for the year we are \$2,000 in the red.

News from the Church Council

Three big pieces of news from the church council...

1. There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on July 19 at 10:30 am for the “yes” or “no” decision by the congregation to give the council permission to form a call committee to call a full-time associate pastor.

Because of the covid virus the council has voted for an exception to no absentee voting. There will be ballots available in the church office on Monday through Thursday, July 20-23 from 9:00-12:00 noon.

Please read the ideas and discussions that came from our two informational meetings on calling an Associate Pastor.

2. There will be no Rummage Sale this year by our CLW. The ongoing concern and spread of this virus have made it common sense not to use our building for the sale. It would violate the state guidelines by how we are being asked to operate. There would be many little protocols of using public space that we could not keep.

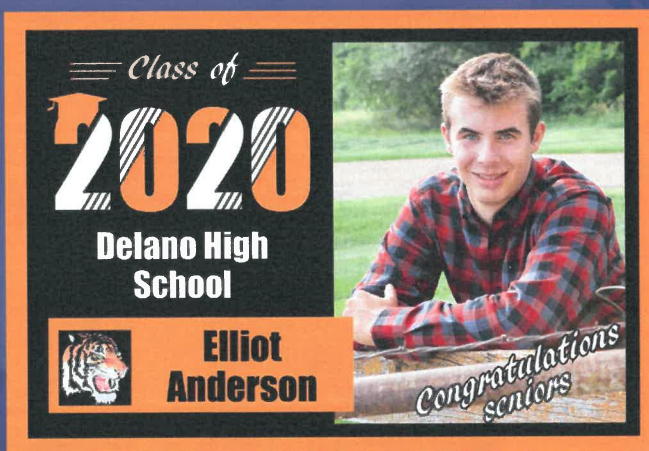
3. As we do worship now, we will do everything we can to worship outside. It is much safer and easier to safe distance. It may get warm, it may be windy, but we are tough. If it is rainy, we will move indoors, and use every third pew in the sanctuary.

Because we have many people still staying home, we will be studying how to record the worship and have it on our website at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings. People miss the Facebook live worship services.

It is very important that we recognize a few things about coffee time. Please pick up your coffee or lemon aid and move away from the table, no clumping! We will serve outside, cookies in baggies, and one person pouring coffee.

Again, if you are sick or have been around people who may be ill please stay home.

Fortunately, to my knowledge, no person has had covid at our church. It may happen one day, and we pray for strength and healing for all.



Please Join Us in Celebrating Elliot's
Graduation at the Anderson Farm
Saturday, July 25, 4-7pm
7486 County Rd 30 SW, Howard Lake, MN
Questions? 763-221-5956

