



Cornerstone

JUNE 2020

With Wonder and Awe!!!

Today my heart went to the story of Gideon! If you remember, Gideon and the Israelites lived after the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, under their leader Joshua. It was not a good time for Israel. They hid in their homes, barely raised enough grain to feed themselves, and the Midianites would raid their land by the thousands, taking what they pleased.

One day Gideon was crouching low, so not to be seen, in the millhouse grinding a little bit of wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "The Lord is with you mighty warrior!" I am sure Gideon did not feel like a mighty warrior, hiding himself while grinding a little bit of wheat. But the angel called him by what God saw and purposed for his life, a mighty warrior!

Now as we enter the season of Pentecost, let us throw off the cloaks of fear, being lame, being burdened, being harassed, and let

us put on the Spirit of our God. As Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and to wait on God for his great gift, so also let us put our sights on who God is for us.

Too much, we as Christians carry the weight of our lives on our shoulders! We remember the past hurts, failures, frustrations, and brokenness. God invites us to let go of all of that and to embrace his Holy Spirit, fresh living waters. The past is behind us, we do not need to live in it. Let us await the presence of God who is for us today. Let us await on God for fresh orders of what we are to do. For God comes among us at the right time to move us from death to incredible life!

There is the need to grieve in life. To bring to God our losses. Our lives have great meaning and when we lose someone or suffer a great loss we need to grieve. But we need to grieve not to ourselves, but to God, who offers us real comfort, and then God calls us to

go and live in the fulness of His Holy Spirit, full of life!

As long as the earth exist, there will be days of spring and summer, the earth will be bursting forth in life. So also, God so desires for us to burst forth in life. Not the life we make by our own living but the life that truly comes from the heart of God for us to live! Do you know it, do you sense it? Let it flow! It comes from God to us!

On the Day of Pentecost God gave us all the image of how he intends for us to live in Jesus' kingdom. Overflowing in praise, for all the peoples of the world to see! Jesus said not to carry heavy burdens, but to take his yoke, it is light! Let the Spirit of God lead you into all the wonders of life in Jesus!

I really hope to see you on Sunday, May 31st the Day of Pentecost! Throw your burdens down, let them go and take up the name he has given you! Mighty Warrior!

God's Unbreakable Peace be with You!

Pastor Ron Boettner

Vision for Christ Lutheran In Calling an Associate Pastor

- God has put a passion in our church council to call an Associate Pastor this summer rather than refilling the part time Youth Director position.
- It is vital to relate our faith to the needs of young families and young people with a trained pastor who can also work with our youth, confirmands, and children.
- Our congregation is continuing at a steady pace, but to grow we need more pastoral leadership and energy. Statistics show congregations with one pastor have an average worship attendance of 80 -150. Congregations with two pastors support an average worship attendance of 180-250.
- The council believes adding a new pastor to staff would increase the life and power of our worship, and increase the number of people that we engage with on a relational level.
- The Church Council will host two informational meetings for the congregation to discuss and reflect on adding a new Associate Pastor on Sundays, June 14th and June 21st following the worship service at 9:00 am. You are invited!

Frequently Asked Questions about Calling an Associate Pastor

1. What would be the responsibilities of our Associate Pastor? The pastor would preach at least once a month, oversee ministries with young adults, families, and our youth and children's ministries. They would also have all regular pastoral duties of leading in worship, visiting, calling, and reaching out into our community.

2. How would we be able to afford this Associate Pastor? Currently our Youth Director position was paid by full use of the parsonage and with \$21,000 in salary. The Associate Pastor would be paid by full use of the parsonage plus \$44,000 in salary. To make up for the \$23,000 difference the Church Council is suggesting we designate \$60,000 of our savings to be set aside for this salary increase, for the next three years. We have \$131,000 in savings and this would still leave us \$71,000 or more in savings. Our focus would then be on working with the new staff position and not on the demands of money, but in growing our ministry.

3. Is this a Congregational decision? Yes, the congregation needs to believe in and desire this position and ministry in our church's vision. After prayer, informational meetings, and discussion there would be a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on this matter. A decision to add a pastor to staff requires a 2/3's vote by those in attendance to pass. A tentative date for the Special Congregational Meeting is set for July 12th.

4. What are the qualifications for this position? At the information meetings we will share in detail of the qualifications and the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor and the Lead Pastor's positions.

5. Will there be a Call Committee and when would we call the Associate Pastor? Yes, the Church Council would assemble a call committee to interview candidates and make the recommendation to the congregation. Interviews for the position would be in July and August.

President's Notes

Spring is a time of rebirth and a gift from God after a long winter. Now summer is just around the corner, HOORAY! With summer comes picnics, boating, fishing, going to the cabin and other activities that allow us to enjoy God's creation.

During this pandemic, we are learning to slow down, enjoy our families, and to appreciate the small wonders of this world. I believe God is using this pandemic to bring us closer to Him.

Now that summer weather is here, we can

go outside, work in the yard, plant flowers and vegetable gardens all activities to warm our hearts and minds. Actually, since the stay at home order, many of us have worked harder on our yards than ever before! But remember to take the time to spend alone with Jesus, reading God's Word, listening to what He has to say to you, and growing your relationship with our heavenly Father!

We are continuing to search for a music director. We are looking for someone who has a deep Christian faith and

The desire to contribute and enhance our worship and praise to God. Please pray that God leads us to the individual that He has already selected for CLC.

I am so looking forward to seeing everyone again! We are a family and we need to worship together praising God for He is mighty and faithful. You are in God's care and He knows your fears and needs. Ask and you will receive for God loves each and everyone of us! He will see us through it all!

Because of Jesus!

Nancy

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Financial Update for Christ Lutheran

We have not had regular worship services at Christ Lutheran Church for over ten weeks! That is unprecedented in our 146 year history! Yet we have been faithful in offering worship via different media and communications by mail. We have also been faithful in our offerings and supporting our Mission Partners, Love Inc, Maple plain Food Shelf (Minnesota Food Share) and in June we will be supporting Feed My Starving Children.

Our giving for April was \$20,855, slightly below our average of \$23,500. Our expenses for April were \$20, 635. Our current savings balance is \$131,000. We praise God for all the ways he lovingly and generously provides for us. We pray that we may be like him and share with wisdom, thankfulness, and wonder of how God works.

Council Highlights

The Church Council reviewed information on the calling of an Associate Pastor and decided on Sundays June 14th and 21st as dates for information meetings. Information would also be put in the newsletter.

Mission and Out Reach distributed over 125 signs in the community with words of hope from the scriptures.

The CLW is still waiting to decide if they will go ahead with a Rummage Sale this year.

We are making plans for VBS for July 13,14, and 15 for 3-8 year olds of our congregation.

Discussion on how to provide video and audio to those at home. Thanks to those providing Facebook live.

Dates to Remember

May 31st - Pentecost and back to regular worship, Senior Recognition Day

June 14 & 21st - informational meeting on calling an Associate Pastor following worship

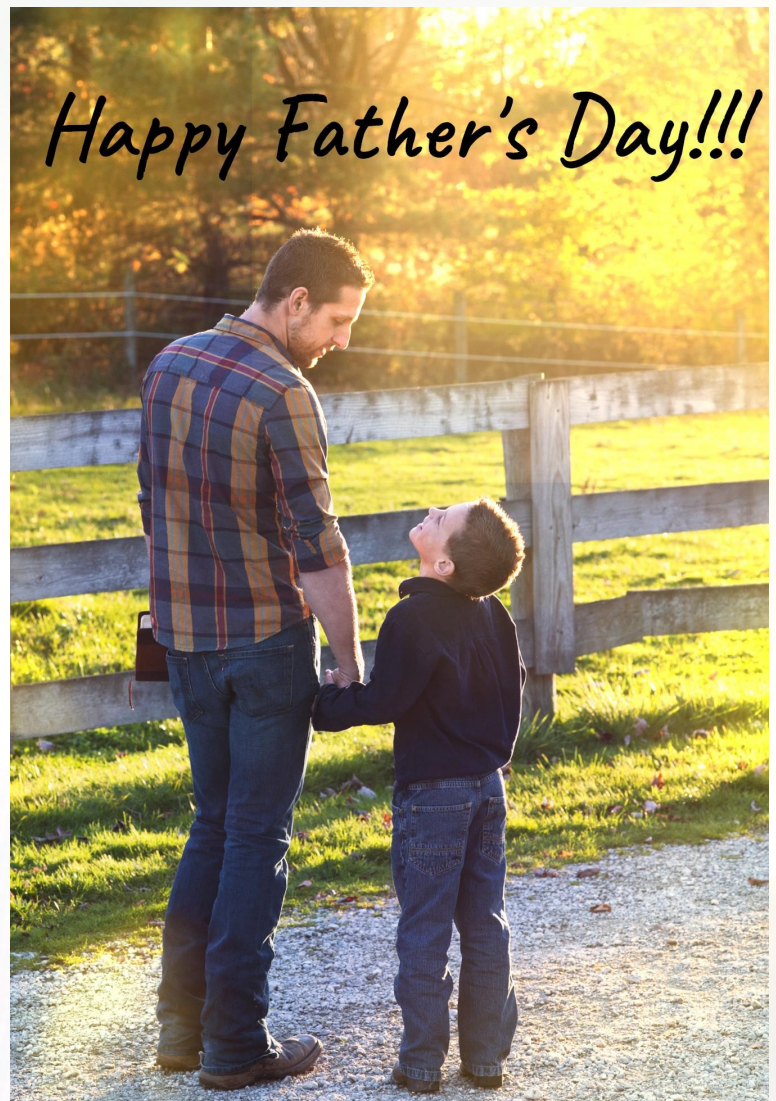
July 13-15 - VBS

There is no sign of Major League Baseball or the Twins yet...

But we have Serving Teams!

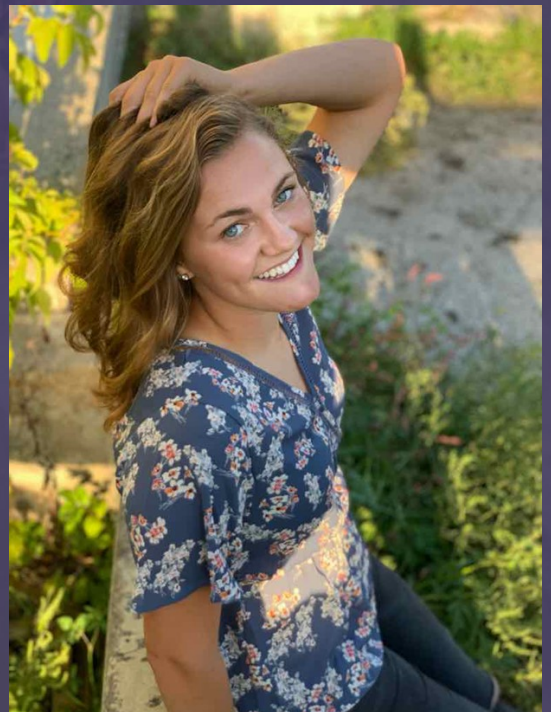
Some people get to play major league baseball but we get to serve coffee, prepare the altar, greet, usher, and read God's holy word to his beloved saints!

As we return to our mission and ministries for God, our Serving Teams are amping up again. Your Serving Team leaders will be calling you for signing up in June and July! But you do not have to wait! Surprise your team leader and ask them if you can serve on a specific date. Make their day! Do something great for your congregation and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Libby Heilman: Libby is an absolute ray of sunshine. She is witty, she has a deep love and appreciation for animals, she is fiercely loyal, she is incredibly athletic, she loves God, and she has a heart of pure gold. Libby, we are so proud of all of the hard work you have put in these past four years of high school and beyond, and we have utter faith that you will continue to soar. You are going to do wonderful things at Northern State in Aberdeen, SD. How awesome it is that you will be playing soccer there! We are so grateful to know you and call you family! Contrate, sweet girl!





Kylie Carlson

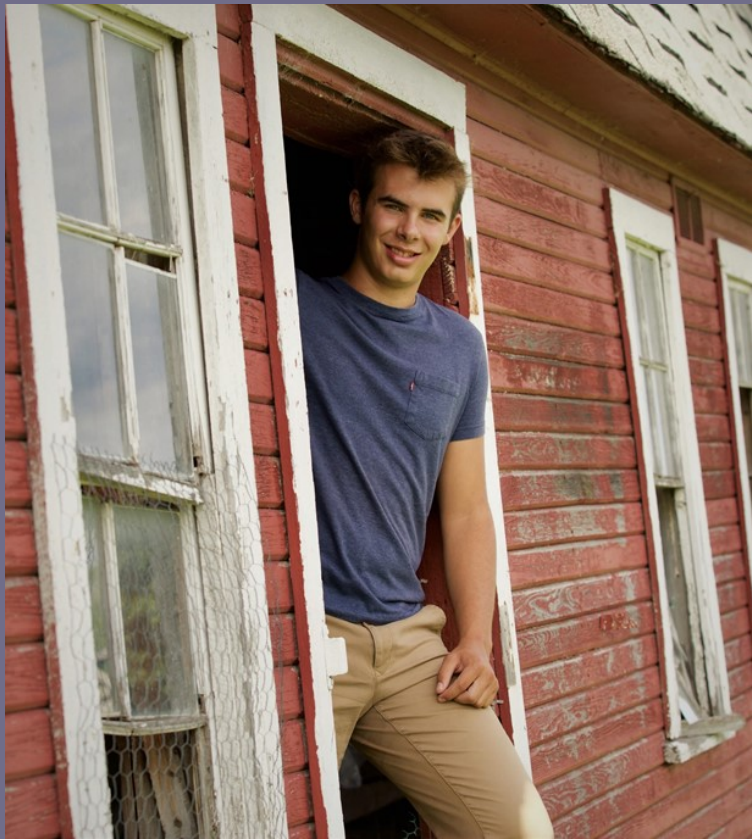
Kylie is an absolute gem. She is quick to show compassion, she always has a smile on her face, she perseveres through great adversity, she is an amazingly talented and successful dancer, she is a diligent student, she is a loyal sister and friend, and she is always quick to ask others how they are doing and takes time to listen. Kylie, you have a beautiful heart and a wonderful future ahead of you. Please know that you will always have family here at Christ Lutheran who will be cheering you on every step of the way. Congrats on your graduation, sweet girl. We are so proud of you!

Noah Carlson

Noah is a hard worker and is always up to lend a hand to those that need help with various projects. He is a smiley guy, just like his twin sister, Kylie. Noah is very resilient and head strong. Noah is witty and always has a funny story to share about his current work projects. Noah, we are grateful for your servant heart. We will be cheering you on always! We are so proud of you and the man of God that you are.

Congrats, Noah!





Elliot Anderson

Elliot has been a part of the CLC family since birth and has been a pillar of strength for those that need it. Elliot is a hard worker, always offering to lend a hand to those that are in need of some assistance. He supports those that need a listening ear and is quick to tell stories of the fun that he has with his buddies. He also knows how to work a lawn-mower, which is pretty cool. (; It has been an honor to witness Elliot grow and develop into the man of God that he is, and we at CLC are so blessed to call him family. We are so proud of you, Elliot!

← **BE STRONG** ➤
and
➤ **COURAGEOUS.** ➤

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever
you go

Joshua 1:9