



# Cornerstone

## APRIL 2021

### Our Church Council Retreat

On Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> the church council met with the Vision Team to identify the importance of having a clear and an easy to remember, vision of our mission as a congregation. The golden arches tell us where to go to get burgers and fries. The red and blue Holiday signs tell us where to get gas for our cars. The vision makes it accessible for people to find things that they need. In case you haven't noticed, it works really well.

Sometimes in our churches, our vision becomes blurred for people as are there for so many things, that the most important thing is not easily accessible or clear. The mission easily becomes only doing the things that are easy to do. For example, it is easy for the church to become a place of consuming worship and food rather than a place where we worship God and

serve others. Churches also become congested with people doing a lot of things but not growing into newer and greater experiences.

Jesus came into the Jewish religious world at a very complex time. There was confusion and confrontation everywhere. There were Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots, and Essenes. There were 623 Jewish laws. Jesus had one: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself. Jesus cleared the temple and said, "Let my house be a house of prayer." Clarity, focus, agreement, and purpose are all part of what Jesus is building his church on.

As a Vison Team and the Church Council we were all drawn to having a vision that is clear and

that brings unity. To keep the main thing the main thing. We agreed with the purpose of the church to be; Love God, Love others, and Serve the World. We want people to encounter Jesus in a profound way so that they know him as Savior and Lord of their lives. We want people to encounter others to share in the gifts of fellowship, support, and understanding. We want people to grow in serving others and serving the world.

We also talked about renewing our Serving Teams. That is part of our Vision that we come to serve God and each other by, greeting, reading, altar care, praying, and serving coffee. We are building three NEW Serving Teams. Every member of Christ Lutheran Church is on a team. But you can only be on one team.

Pastor Wes also led us in a discussion on 6 strategies for us to grow our church. They all fit in

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3
6:40am Easter Sunrise Service (Cemetery)	7:00pm Bell Choir	1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood	4:30pm Kingdom Kids	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	
9:00am Worship Service			6:30pm Women's Bible Study	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	OFFICE CLOSED	
10:00am Coffee Fellowship			6:30pm Youth Group	10:00am Music Together Minnie Melody	6:30pm Good Friday Service	
11:00am Worship Service			7:30pm Music Practice	6:30pm Maundy Thursday		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6:40am Easter Sunrise Service (Cemetery)	7:00pm Bell Choir	1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood	4:30pm Kingdom Kids	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	OFFICE CLOSED	
9:00am Worship Service			6:30pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Music Together Minnie Melody	6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	
10:00am Coffee Fellowship			6:30pm Youth Group			
11:00am Worship Service			7:30pm Music Practice			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00am Worship Service	6:30pm Prayer Team	6:00pm Vision Team	5:00pm Confirmation	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	OFFICE CLOSED	
10:00am Coffee Fellowship			6:30pm Men's Bible Study	10:00am Music Together Minnie Melody		
10:20am Congregational Fellowship			6:30pm Women's Bible Study	7:00pm Council Meeting		
10:20am Anchored In			7:30pm Music Practice			
10:30am Adult Discussion						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00am Worship Service	7:00pm Bell Choir	11:00am Staff Meeting (Fireside Room) - Tami Greenwood	4:30pm Kingdom Kids	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	OFFICE CLOSED	
10:00am Coffee Fellowship			6:30pm Men's Bible Study	10:00am Music Together Minnie Melody	6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	
10:20am Anchored In			6:30pm Women's Bible Study			
10:20am Good Life			6:30pm Youth Group			
10:30am Adult Discussion			7:30pm Music Practice			
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
9:00am Worship Service	6:30pm Prayer Team		5:00pm Confirmation	9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	OFFICE CLOSED	
10:00am Coffee Fellowship			6:30pm Men's Bible Study	10:00am Music Together Minnie Melody		
10:20am Anchored In			6:30pm Women's Bible Study			
10:20am Good Life			6:30pm Youth Group			
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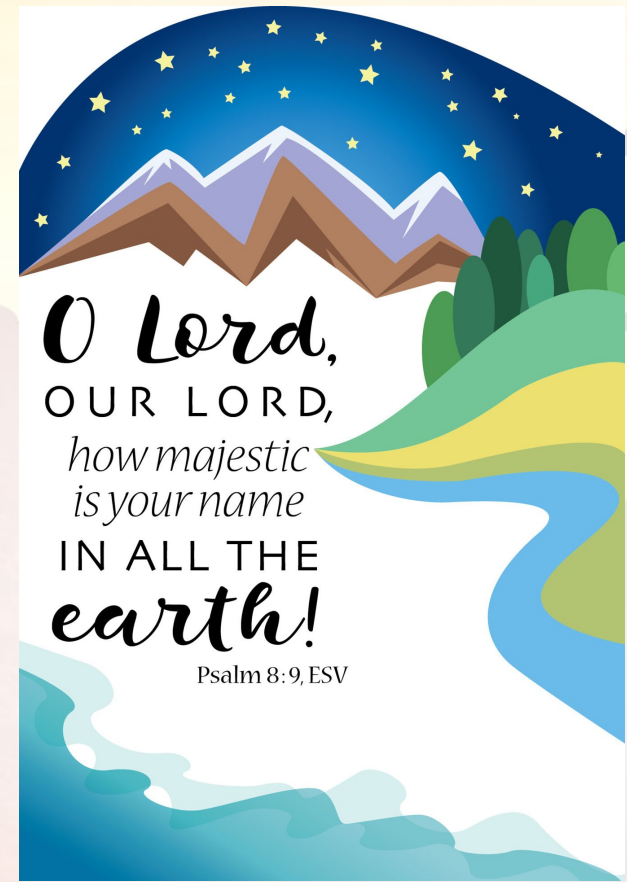
with our Vision of helping people encounter Christ, work with each other, and serve the world. There are strategies that are planned for growth. Sometimes we have all the ingredients to make things happen but then you need the strategies for growth.

We trust that God builds His church, that only He can change our lives. We believe God is passionate about people and we should be so as well. We believe God has a plan for each person to be a part of this church being alive, being healthy, and reaching new people.

Pray with passion for our congregation and our leaders!

God’s Peace!

Pastor Ron



## Financial Update for Christ Lutheran

Our “offering” is a vital part of our worship. It truly is the heartbeat of our worship for God. The “offering” is the state of our mind and will towards God not our money. How do we wake up in the morning? Ready to serve our family, our neighbor, and our God? With the covid virus there was at first great concern about passing the disease through the surfaces of objects. So, we stopped passing the offering plate. In a sense we lost part of our worship where we sing praise to God that we love serving Him. It is a very subtle thing to lose a part of our worship service. We will be thinking about how we can include the offering in our worship service.

Our offering is also not just a state of our mind and will towards God it is also what we actually do. When God has provided for us our job or our income how do we respond towards God. The scriptures have always taught us to trust God, and the first step is to give back to Him what he has already given us. God has asked that we would give him the first fruits, not out of duty or for the law, but out of love. Paul said, “will not he who gave His only Son for us also give us all things?” There is a real trust relationship that grows out of our acts of love. When the Spirit prompts us, we should step into the action the Spirit of God is encouraging us out of love and trust for God’s goodness!

The key part of offering is do we listen to the voice of God saying, “go do this” or “help here”. Are we ready to serve God? There are a lot of cries for help these days. Our Mission Partners need our support to serve the needs of people. As a congregation we gladly select eleven partners a year. Some are local, some are international. God loves to include us in being part of His giving to the real needs of people. Our Mission Partner for April is Feed My Starving Children. If God prompts, please feel empowered to serve this mission.

Our February 2021 offerings were \$19,853 which is \$3,313 of our monthly goal. Our expenses were \$23,435 which was just a little under our monthly average. The balance in savings is \$124,685.

## Worshiping Christ by serving as HE first served

*He is Risen! Holy Week has finished, and Easter has come! We get to live in the good news of what the resurrection means for a humanity that was sinful and lost. For me, one of the most dramatic events of Holy Week that continues to stick with me after Easter was what transpired on Maundy Thursday during the Last Supper...the washing of the disciples’ feet by Jesus.*

*The book of John tells us that while the meal was in process Jesus stopped, got up from the meal, and began to wash his disciples’ feet. What an incredible act of love and service for his closest friends! Yet Jesus did not intend for his actions to stop with him, but rather to inspire in his disciples and all that follow (the church!) a life of service for others. Jesus himself illustrates the point in John 13 **“Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”***

*At the core of the mission of Christ Lutheran Church is loving God, loving others, and serving those around us. Don’t miss out on the importance of how serving others fulfills the first two parts of the mission. In fact Jesus changes how we should view serving others. Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40 **“Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”** Whenever we serve others, we are really serving Jesus. **To imitate Jesus is to serve others, and when we serve others, we are really serving Jesus!** This should not only affect our attitude, but also excite and energize us as Christians to serve others. Serving is a lifelong call by Jesus that fulfills the mission of our church!*

*So how do we, as spiritual descendants of the disciples, serve others as Jesus served us? There are many ways to serve others, but lucky for you, you are a part of Christ Lutheran Church. Therefore, Jesus’ command to serve one another means that we as a church body should be serving each other. The good news is that we have a tangible, practical way of living out this message within the body of the church, our **serving teams!***

*In the coming weeks we are restarting our serving teams. All members of Christ Lutheran will be split up into one of three serving teams to help Sunday mornings. For one month the serving teams will be asked to help with scripture reading, greeting, altar care, coffee fellowship, and offering up intercessory prayers for the worship service that day. Since there will be 3 teams, each team will serve 4 months a year (one month on and two months off). These serving teams will begin serving weekly on Sunday, April 18th.*

*Being a part of a church is like being a part of a family. It works best when everyone pitches in and helps. Beyond the sense of duty however, serving is a part of worship. Jesus, who is God of the entire universe, came down and served humanity to the point of dying for us to save us. In the process he makes it clear that our response should be one of serving others. Let us heed his call and worship Christ enthusiastically by serving each other here at Christ Lutheran. There are three Serving Team coordinators for each team that will be contacting you in the next few weeks. When they do, take it as a time to enthusiastically worship Jesus through serving!*

- Pastor Wes

