

Remodeling Goals for Our Bathrooms

The Property Committee has been busy planning upgrades for our bathrooms. They are ordering new vanities and sinks, new mirrors, touchless dispensers for soap and paper towels. The walls will be repainted, but around the mirrors they plan to add a tile back splash. They have ordered new partitions and have plans for new lights, and new ceilings. They will also replace the tile floors with a new more appealing floor tile. The hope is to do the work during the month of August.

The total costs for the remodeling of both the men's and ladies' bathrooms are coming in at about \$32,000. The council will use \$14,000 from our Endowment B Fund. The B Fund is designated for property use. This leaves \$18,000 needed to complete the project. Being that this project exceeds 3% of our Annual Budget the council is calling for a brief special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 27th to approve using up to \$18,000 from our savings for remodeling our bathrooms. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact President Shelly Anderson or Pastor Ron.

Important Dates this Summer

The ordination of Pastor Wes Asheim will be on July 18th. Pastor Asheim has successfully completed all his seminary training and will be approved by the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ Association. Pastor Asheim will be fully certified to serve our congregation and congregations of the LCMC. We will celebrate with Pastor Wes and Anya on this day with the Ordination Service and a lunch following.

Outdoor Worship at Baker Park on Sunday, July 25th! We are renting Driftwood Picnic Area at Baker Park. We will have worship at 10:00 am followed by a Potluck Picnic. Hot dogs and brats, drinks, and plates provided. Bring a lawn chair as we have outdoor worship on the shores of Lake Independence.

Why Follow Christ Lutheran on Social Media?

Over the past month you may have noticed announcements, emails, and encouragements to follow the Christ Lutherans Facebook and Instagram pages. During that time, you may have wondered "Why should I follow them? Isn't that just a place to see the same announcements that I get in the worship folder?" The answer to that question is an emphatic NO! In fact, if you were to look at our recent postings you would see very few announcements and instead find posts that lead you in a spiritual practice or encourage engagement with each other. We want to use social media to connect with our Christ Lutheran congregation AND connect

the people of the congregation to each other the 167 hours a week that we aren't in church! You can be a part of helping this emerging ministry of Christ Lutheran be successful simply **by following, liking, commenting and sharing** our Facebook and Instagram posts. By doing this we are engaging together as a congregation outside the walls of the church. Start following us today on Instagram at [christlutheran.mp](https://www.instagram.com/christlutheran.mp) or liking our Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page and continue the conversation all week long!



Cornerstone

JUNE 2021

The Holy Trinity

Do you ever like to think about ideas that make your head hurt? The kinds of things that the more you think about them the less they seem to make sense. The place that contains many mysteries such as this is the Bible. One concept from the Bible that falls into that category for me is the Trinity of God. This is the idea that God is one, expressed in the three distinct persons of the Father, The Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit.

When talking to confirmation students I often explain the trinity like this; There is ONE God. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. The Father is NOT the Son, the Son is NOT the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is NOT the Father. Easy to say (or read), but hard to truly grasp and understand.

The concept of the Trinity remains as one of the defining characteristics of the Christian faith. We believe there is one God, yet because of the Trinity, Christians have been incorrectly accused of believing in three Gods. To make things even more complicated, the word "trinity" is never used in the Bible when describing God. Yet it doesn't take much searching to see the work of all three persons of the Trinity all throughout scripture. Jesus repeatedly refers to the Father as God in the gospels (Matt 5:45; 6:26). Scripture bears witness to the equality of the Son and the Father. We see in the Bible that Jesus possesses the attributes of God, doing work that only God can perform (Matt 28:20; Phil 3:21; Mark 2:8-10). Scripture also teaches that the

Coming Up!

- Jun 26th - Christin Flatten Celebration of Life
- Jun 27th - Congregational Meeting
- Jul 5-8th - Day Camp/VBS
- Jul 18th - Wes' Ordination
- Jul 25th - Outdoor Worship at Baker Park

Holy Spirit is fully divine, also being given attributes that are those of God. The work done by the spirit is God's own work (Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 6:19; 1 Cor 12; Acts 5:4). The Scriptures make it unavoidably clear that the Father is God, the Son is God, the Spirit is God, and that God is one. Therefore, even though the Bible never mentions the word "Trinity" it clearly teaches about it.

In addition to scripture, our Christian creeds, which are based on what the Bible teaches, testify to the fact of the Trinity as well. The Apostles Creed describes the work of each part of the trinity following the familiar pattern of teaching how the Father is the creator, the Son is the redeemer, and the Spirit is the sanctifier. While true, stopping there with our understanding can limit the work of each person of the Trinity. In truth, each person of the Trinity participates in every part of the work the other does. We see this more completely described in both the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. They beautifully go into more detail about the relation of the Father, Son, and Spirit within the trinity. Hear these opening words in the Athanasian Creed: **"We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity... The person of the Father is one, that of the Son another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another, but the deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is one - equal in glory, coequal in majesty"**

We live in the absolute mystery of the Trinity, knowing that it exists and that it is how God has revealed himself to us, but not ever fully understanding it because we are not God. We are the creation, the Triune God is the creator, his ways are above ours. Yet to believe in God is to believe in the work of the Trinity. We are called as Christians, not to understand the Holy Trinity intellectually, but to live as redeemed sinners baptized into the triune name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The triune God is the God of the gospel. As the Father, he sent his only begotten Son into a world ruined by sin. As the Son, he died on the cross for all the world.

~ Pastor Wes

A Summer in the Gospel of Mark

Summer brings much renewal to our lives! Maybe this year especially as we begin our lives anew in the wake of the covid pandemic. We are still in the wake of what has happened. As I spoke with a friend last night one of the men in his bible study, has a dear wife on a ventilator since April 16th, just a couple days after she contracted covid. Covid has left a trail of loss, injury, and in many cases financial hardships. It has also brought on the case of fear. We are conditioned to respond to many things with fear.

As we look at the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus move through people's lives, the crowds, adversity, and the ferocity of nature with no fear. He is the God of life. He is absolute good news for every person, in every situation.

As we traveled through the covid pandemic together, we responded to it in many different ways. According to the health needs of various people, according to our workplace demands, and how we saw things. We struggled to know what the science or truth was about the virus. The hardest moments that we are still walking through is the grief of having our loved ones die during this time. Funeral services were muted or delayed. It is always hard to grieve, and this time made it even harder. God knows our pains, our losses, and our struggles. God knows how some still have side effects from the virus. We pray for their full recovery.

As we come together this summer, with thankfulness for the vaccines, we come together to learn anew what it means that Jesus is our Savior and leads us through life as a community centered in Him, and as individuals growing in Him.

As we are preparing how to share the Gospel of Mark this summer, we noticed a few things about the gospel. As Jesus reveals himself as the

Son of God, he moves quickly to forgive people, he immediately casts out demons, he heals people who have faith but all the while He is active in his ministry people have a hard time accepting who he is! Even his mother and brothers want to bring him home. The religious leaders accuse him of using the power of the devil. People were slow to believe in Him. In his own hometown he did only a few minor healings because people did not believe.

Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee and went to a small Gentile, godless village, and he healed a man there possessed of demons, but the city responded by sending Jesus away. But later they realized what a

wonderful thing Jesus had done for this demoniac and they welcomed Jesus with all their hearts the second time he came, and Jesus healed many!

God is a god of second chances! We are coming together this summer in the Gospel of Mark to really meet or encounter the Messiah anew. What do we really believe about Jesus? Do we actually hear his good warnings about how to stay in him and how to have real community? Let's listen to Jesus this summer from the Gospel of Mark.

-God's Peace!

Pastor Ron

Charis Women's Bible Study will resume in the Fall. They will have a Summer Gathering on JUNE 17th at 9:00 am at Janet Formstom's home.

Christ Lutheran Financial Update

Our regular offering for April this year was \$20,397, which is about \$4,000 less than we expected. We also received two very generous gifts totaling \$2,000 to support the technology upgrades in the fireside room, so that did not come out of the general budget. Our savings account is at \$134,000. Our expenses for the year are below budget by \$600. So, we had calculated pretty accurately, and we have been able to fund our Associate Pastor position fairly well taking only a little from savings so far this year. We thank you for your offerings and ministries to support Christ Lutheran Church.