

Christ Connection

Empowered by God's love and following in the ways of Jesus Christ, we LIVE, GROW and SHARE AS Disciples of Christ.

For the Week Beginning August 2, 2020— Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

The Lord's Prayer – why and how we pray

[Jesus said to the disciples,] "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13

From Luther's Small Catechism, The Last Petition:
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil - affecting body or soul, property or reputation- and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

This final petition recognizes that evil is the root of everything that draws us away from God. Each of the things we have prayed for up to this point help us resist evil. When we hallow God's name within ourselves, live in the presence of God's kin-dom, seek the will of God over our own, have what is needed for each day, and recognize God's forgiveness and extend it to others - then we are already in the process of being delivered from evil.

This petition again requires humility and 'right-sizing' our own egos. Only because God protects us do we live or have any good thing. The devil (all that draws us from God) would take everything away from us. However, God wants abundant life for us. So we pray for God's protection - not because God will only protect us if we ask, but to be reminded again that we depend upon God.

Again, this can be confusing. Bad things happen all the time - even to people who seek to follow Jesus. If God protects us, how can this be?

Here we look back to the whole prayer for answers. Remember that sinfulness and evil are anything that causes broken relationships or draws us away from God. We pray again and again that we would be protected from these things. We pray that God's holiness and kin-dom and will be present here among us, that we would receive forgiveness and all that we need for life. We pray for all of this because they do not come naturally to us. This prayer leads us toward humility, grace, justice, forgiveness, and interconnected community. It insists that God's gifts to us ought also be our gifts to all people.

We know, though, that we do not live this way. In reality, each of us falls into pride, judgement, cruelty, oppression, stubbornness, and self-centeredness. Because of this, we must continue to pray that God save us from evil - that which is done to us *and also* that which we cause. May God deliver us from evil, and deliver us from ourselves.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. & noon
Instructions at
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

2nd and 4th Mondays
6:00PM

Christ Lutheran Staff

Rev. Erin Clausen, Pastor
Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant
Jon Ball, Dir. Contemporary Music
Bonnie Bucholz, Dir. Traditional Music
Jo Chiko, Handbell Choir Director
Dan Cramer, Director of Social Media Marketing
Kristina Dickens
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 @ChristClarendon

 [clc.clarendon.hills](https://www.instagram.com/clc.clarendon.hills)

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CHURCH COUNCIL

President's Message

Our world has certainly been turned upside down since the onset of Covid-19 and nothing seems easy. The current set of circumstances has put uncertainty front and center. There have been many lessons on letting go and re-evaluating. It might be interesting for each of us to take a sheet of paper with a line drawn down the middle and on one side list all of the things “very important before Covid” and on the other side “very important since Covid.” Do you think the two sides would match up, entry for entry? My guess is that you would have two totally different lists. For a good number of families, paper towel and bathroom tissue certainly gained a much higher position on the “since Covid” side of the list. All humor aside, I certainly hope that family, friends, good health, kindness, generosity and relationship with God, moved up the “since Covid” list. I am not ashamed to admit that my list has drastically changed. So many things just taken for granted, are no longer automatic.

Have any of us ever dared to think what would happen if Rachel was only “on duty” one day a week? What if a congregant became seriously ill or if a family member passed and Pastor Erin was only available on the third Thursday of the month? Paint your own picture, it is not a good scenario. Why am I asking you to envision such a bleak existence? We have been very fortunate and have pursued grants to help fill in the gap during our time apart from each other. That grant money, however, doesn't last very long and the last thing we ever want to do is furlough any of our staff. Each of them continues to work long hours and have had to learn to do things in very different ways to help keep us connected. The summer months for CLC are always lean and this year is exceptional. Maybe Covid-19 has curtailed some of our usual activities and might even leave a few extra dollars in our budgets. While there are some new resources on the horizon, which I will pursue, we must be able to show that we are a viable organization, continuing the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church. The proverbial elephant in the room is that unfortunately, our obligations must be met each and every month, whether we meet in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

So here is my ask. Please continue your contributions. If there is a little wiggle room, please wiggle our way. I promise that we will put each dollar to really good use. I know for me, right now, Christ Lutheran Church and our Pastor play a much bigger role in my day-to-day life, and hopefully in yours as well. I am grateful for all the ministries of this great Church and I have faith that we will pull together and come out the other side a more loving Christian Community. In God's grand plan, maybe this forced slow down is a blessing in disguise.

In closing, the message of Matthew 6:21 resounds.....

”For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

God bless, stay safe until we gather again,
Maggie Swiess
Council President

Be a part of the
Communion
Slide Show

Send Us
Your Photos!



Send photos to office@yourchrist.org.

Annual
Rummage
Sale



Because of the uncertainty in the current climate as it relates to gathering in large groups, we regret that we will have to cancel the Rummage Sale this year.

For those of you who have faithfully gathered items to donate and have been storing them, thank you.

As we try to help everyone dispose of items they may have collected, we will be sharing information as we gather it:

Amvets 708-388-7800
www.ilamvets.org

- AMVETS needs clothing donations (for men, women, and children), electronics, small appliances, kitchenware, lamps, curtains and drapes, books, bicycles, bedding, and more.
 - Boxes and bags only (no loose items)
- Books limited to novels and children's story-books
 - No baby gear or baby furniture



August 4-6, 2020

Register at www.yourchrist.org

This summer, on Tuesday August 4th - Thursday August 6th*, we'll be using a quarantine-friendly VBS called **BOLT**. With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads you and your kids step-by-step through each of the 3 days, BOLT is designed for you to perform with your family at home. It's so simple!

During BOLT, your family will participate in fun games that illustrate what it means to listen to, focus on, and follow Jesus. Depending on your pace, you can expect that each day's experience will last about an hour and a half. It's great for kids 5 and up. Even middle and high school kids can enjoy it! **Log on to our website and register your kids today!**

*For families who cannot make the August dates, the curriculum will be available through the end of the year.

Families who register for BOLT will get a visit from Pastor Erin early next week with a cool packet of supplies to help you with your Virtual VBS.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

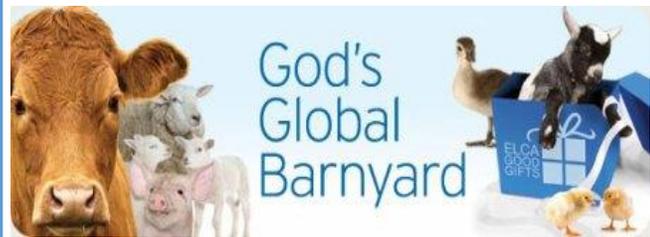
The Virtual Bible Study

Schedule Change

There are a number of people who would like to engage in the Dialogues on Race Bible Study but are unable to participate on Wednesday mornings.

Therefore, the decision was made to hold this study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. It will be a ZOOM meeting. The information below will help you to log on to the bible study.

<https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlsclTNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09>



The Christian IMPACT Team would like to finish up the God's Global Barnyard (piggy bank) fundraiser that we began at the beginning of Lent. Unfortunately, we are not able to collect everyone's banks filled with change at this time. If you would like to participate, we are asking you to write a check to Christ Lutheran Church and put "God's Global Barnyard" or "Piggy Bank" in the memo line, and we will make sure the money goes to our Lenten Mission. Hang on to the bank until such time as we are able to gather in person again. The deadline for donations will be **September 15th**.

We have also had a button (*ELCA World Hunger*) added to our Tithely (online giving) platform for this purpose for those who do their giving electronically on our website at yourchrist.org

DIALOGUES

— ON —
RACE

Dialogues on Race is one in a series of "Dialogues on" studies intended to help Lutheran Christians respond faithfully to real-life questions. It's not news to anyone that we are living in a time of conflict, division, and disagreement. In politics, in religion, in education, in relationships and communities and churches, we are becoming people who can't seem to find our way out of the "us vs. them" pit of divisiveness. It doesn't matter who you think is "us" and who is "them." We all feel stuck.

And yet we know it doesn't have to be like this. In the face of cracking communities and strained family dynamics, the church is uniquely equipped to bring healing, hope, and wholeness to a hurting world. Ours is a faith built on hope, on the belief that we are all created in the image of God, on the assurance that no person or situation is beyond redemption. We believe faith is not only believing in God, but also doing the work of God in the world. We are the shining city on a hill, and the world needs our light now more than ever. One small group resource isn't going to change everything, but it can be a catalyst for new models of relational repair and social action. It can give participants a set of tools they can use to have bridge-building conversations rather than explosive arguments. It can serve as a model of peacemaking for a community struggling with strife. In other words, it can help the church be the church. Learner Guides are available through Augsburg Fortress for \$9.99 each and can be purchased through the following link: [Dialogues on Race Bible Study](#) *They are not necessary in order to participate in the Study.*



Do you want to be a "virtual" Assisting Minister in Zoom Worship? Contact the Church Office if you would like to record a reading for use on Sunday mornings. All it takes is a Smart phone with a camera. We will provide instructions.