

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 30, 2020— Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



I'm going to ask for a favor; as your pastor, I don't do that very often. Today I'm sharing a challenging journey that I'm on, and I'm going to ask you to stay with me in it. Please read this - and then agree or disagree, feel satisfied or angry, decide to share your perspective or let it go. But whatever you decide, please don't decide until you read what I have to share. And then, I welcome you to email, write, or call me and share your own journey and reactions, if you feel led to.

In my family, we don't really do yard signs. My spouse and I both grew up in family homes well away from the "beaten path," so they didn't make sense for our families. Thus, neither Tom nor I are particularly

drawn to them. Because I'm a pastor, we have swayed away from partisan signs out of respect for my position in the community. (Although not all pastors make that choice, and we respect their position as well.) We do not yet have children in schools encouraging us to put up signs, and when community members have asked us to do so we have tended to graciously decline. And yet, here is a picture of my daughter standing proudly with the sign that has been in our yard for the last couple of months.

What changed? you may wonder. To be honest, I can't say exactly what changed. I don't remember the exact chain of events that led up to knowing we needed to do this - that I needed to do this. I remember the stress of managing life in a pandemic. I remember reading a lot about how to help children manage anxiety and grow into moral, ethical adults. I remember the heartbreak I felt learning of the much higher death toll of the pandemic in communities of color. I remember learning that George Floyd was killed by a police officer. And not killed in a good?-or-bad? shooting, but killed in a position of complete helplessness, while one of the officer's compatriots nervously told that officer that he should stop. And I remember a sudden and deep conviction that I needed to say something - to do something - because I want the children of this world to grow in a world of love instead of hate and fear. I also want to live in a world of love, but making a public statement about where I stand *without being able to dialogue about it* makes me nervous. What I can't do for me, though, I can do for my children - and all of the children I know and know to live around the world. I want them to know that our home values love, thoughtfulness, and individual respect. So, I became convicted that the little piece of the world that is my neighborhood should know where I stand.

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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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But still, I was nervous... anxious, even. It took me days to tell Tom that I thought we needed to put a Black Lives Matter sign in our yard. I was shocked when he simply agreed. When I went online “shopping” for the sign, I found the one above and fell in love with how much it says about love. It’s exactly the message I hope my children learn about themselves, others, and God’s creation. It’s exactly the message I want my community to know about our home and our family. But I was nervous about purchasing the sign. I was nervous about putting it in our yard. I thought we might hide it in the flower garden, but Tom and the girls proudly displayed it near the sidewalk, where everyone could see. I was nervous about what the neighbors would say. Honestly, I was (and still am) nervous about how you, my church, would respond to your pastor making a public statement of where I stand. I stand for love and the right of every human being to grow into the person God is creating them to be.

Isn’t it interesting that, as a pastor, that public stance makes me nervous?

I need to say this here, too - I am convinced that saying Black Lives Matter does not mean that *only* their lives matter. God has created each of us in love, and we each matter. I agree that police officer’s lives matter. I agree that babies’ lives matter. I agree that starving children’s lives matter. I agree that *your* life matters! And also, Black Lives Matter... and People of Color live in a world that tells them every day that their lives don’t matter. The same is true for the other people represented on this sign - queer lives matter; the earth matters; women matter; immigrants and refugees matter; *you* matter. I want to be a voice that goes against the current, that responds to my fear - and yours - with God’s love.

This week, another officer involved shooting has made the news, followed by false reports of another shooting in Minneapolis. The public does not know the story of Jacob Blake or the officer who shot him. But the apparent use of unnecessary force in this and so many officer-involved-deaths of people of color makes the world less safe instead of more so. Rioting in Minneapolis occurred over *false* reports of an officer-involved-shooting, in part because one current expectation is that those called to Serve and Protect will kill instead. This puts police officers - and likely other first responders - at greater risk as well. This vicious cycle of anger and fear continues, making the world a far more perilous place.

And so, I want the world to know that in our family, we stand for love. We stand for the kind of love that casts a wider net than we’re comfortable with. So, we have a sign that speaks for love. We still expect that it might be vandalized. We expect that our home might be less safe from those who fear difference. We hope, though, that it will be more safe for those whose very lives are at risk because of who God has created them to be.

Actually getting this sign into our front yard took deep spiritual and emotional work. Keeping it there requires continuing work. It also holds me accountable. A sign is a step in the journey toward a world filled with love. As big as it feels to me, it’s still only a step. I need to screw up my courage to face the next truth, the next lesson, the next step. Wherever you are on the journey, I respect you. And I hope that, together, we can journey toward a world that responds to fear with love - and that the kin-dom of God might come.

Pastor Erin

Be a part of the Communion Slide Show

Send Us Your Photos!



One of the ways we keep connected is through our Communion Slide shows. Not only do we get to view it on Sunday morning, but it also gets sent out to our home-bound in printed form and they absolutely love seeing the pictures.

Send photos to:
office@yourchrist.org



The Worship Team and Staff would like to thank everyone who came out to participate in our very first Outdoor Worship earlier in Au-

gust. We had over 25 vehicles in our parking lot and we hope everyone enjoyed worshipping together in this exciting, new way. As we look forward to possibly planning future events, your input is vitally important. It would be so helpful if you could please take a moment to email the church office at: Office@yourchrist.org with "outdoor worship" in the subject line.. Please let us know what you enjoyed about the service and any suggestions you might have on how we could improve the experience. We would especially like to know what you thought about the sound quality, and whether you used the FM radio transmission or were able to hear the live speaker system well. Thanks in advance for your help! **The Worship Team is meeting on Monday evening to distill responses, so please send your feedback before then!**

Connections



We hope that you have enjoyed reading about favorite bible verses that have meaning for some of our church family each Wednesday in "Connections".

If you have one you would like to share for our Wednesday "Connections" email, please send it to office@yourchrist.org for inclusion in an upcoming Wednesday e-mail.

Weekly Social Media Posts for August



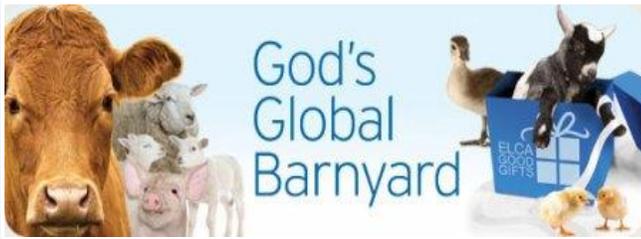
Motivational Monday
Thoughtful Tuesday
Wednesday Wisdom
Traditional Music Thursday
Praise Band Friday
Sermon Sneak Peak Saturday
Sunday Shine

YourChrist.org



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.



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. The deadline for donations will be **September 15th**.

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

We will collect them when we are back in worship together.

The Christian IMPACT Team



The Need Continues...

As you know, Christ Lutheran Church made a commitment to the under-resourced families of **Hinsdale South High School** over the summer. Students who would normally have access to school breakfasts and lunches no longer had that available to them over the summer months, The Christian IMPACT

Team was able to purchase \$800.00 worth of Target and WalMart gift cards for these families for the months of May, June, July and August, to help make their summers a little more manageable. Some of their comments . . .

"The gift cards helped my family with groceries. Being a single mother of 3 growing teenagers we welcome assistance whenever it's available. And it was great to receive gift cards because we were able to buy exactly what we really needed. Thank you so much for the donations."

First and foremost I want to say thank you to the sponsors of the summer Gift cards . They helped me and my kids so much. With all this craziness and no income it was an incredible help. I am still not getting unemployment so it was great help in getting grocery and toiletries. God bless you all ."

"I enjoy the gifts cards for my daughter. She use them for food, clothes, and hair items. It help so much. Thanks"

"Good morning, I was so grateful; it helped me a lot with grocery which allowed me to put more towards my light bill; the air is killing that bill but, what can we do . Thank U All so much and may your blessing continue as U Bless others."

With District 86 going to "remote learning" because of COVID, these families will continue to struggle. If you would like to help out, you may make a donation by either mailing a check to the church with "District 86" in the memo line, or on Tithe-ly at www.yourchrist.org. Thank you.

The Christian IMPACT Team

