

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 July 19, 2020— Seventh 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 Fifth Petition:

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us

What is this? OR What does this mean?

We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead, we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.

This petition reflects the humility with which God intends we regard both God and one another. Here we recognize that we are not always in the right. In fact, we state that we sin. This means we do things that breaks down our relationship with God, our neighbors, and even ourselves. We do things that are wrong. Sometimes, we do these on purpose. We may lie or say something hurtful. We may be jealous. We may physically hurt someone or take something that does not belong to us. At the same time, sometimes we sin with inaction, or even ignorance. We may see someone get hurt and turn the other way. We live in a society which has been built on the backs (and the lives) of immigrants and slaves. We buy things that are made in inhumane working conditions. Often, these realities are both invisible and impossible to avoid. And so, our recourse is to humbly recognize that we sin daily and ask for God's forgiveness, even as we seek to follow God's laws (aka the 10 Commandments).

In the longer description Luther lays out in the Large Catechism, Luther also points out that God forgives sin *not* because we ask it, but because God has promised already to forgive our sin. God has given us the gospel, full of grace and forgiveness, so that we might be ever assured of God's forgiveness. That we cannot live perfectly does not separate us from God's grace, unless we allow it to. Therefore, this petition reminds us that we are, indeed, forgiven.

At the same time, we also say clearly that we will forgive those who sin against us. This challenges many of us. Until we can forgive our neighbors, we cannot have the reconciliation with God that God so desperately wants us to receive. Forgiving our neighbors (or even ourselves) does not mean forgetting or allowing ourselves to be hurt again and again. Rather, we offer the same grace that God offers. We understand that we all make mistakes and cause brokenness, and we seek genuine reconciliation with God and others.

So as we pray, we recognize God's gift of grace to us, and seek to extend it to ourselves and others. May God give us the grace and humility to do this.

Sunday Worship

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

Faith Formation

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
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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This summer, in early August, we'll be using a quarantine-friendly 3-day 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!

Watch for an e-blast with details for BOLT VBS and registration information coming soon!



Thank you to all who participated in our "Return to Worship" Survey. We had a wonderful response, which is very helpful to our leadership as we continue to move our church forward.

Please take the time to open the "Return to Worship" Survey Results that are attached as a pdf with this email.

A special thank you to **Jeannette Tamayo** and **Bill Lyon** of the COVID Resiliency team who worked tirelessly to get this survey out, and then the results tabulated in a timely manner.

Do you want to a "virtual" As-sisting Minister 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



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you

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>

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 277 247 648
Password: 021969



We are all feeling somewhat disconnected from our church family during this time where we cannot worship in person. With that in mind, the Spiritual Growth quadrant will be kicking off an initiative at the beginning of August called "Connections".

It's very simple. Each day of the week, the church will provide something to you either via text, on Facebook or to your email inbox designed to help keep you in prayer, inspire you to open your Bible and look up a passage or go online to look up a hymn, or just meditate on an image.

"Opt in" to Connections by sending us an email at office@yourchrist.org and beginning on Monday, August 3rd be a part of something bigger!

DIALOGUES

Dialogues on Race is one in a series of "Dialogues on" studies intended to help Lutheran Christians respond faithfully to real-life questions.

— ON —
RACE

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](#)

Weekly Connections Schedule

- Monday:** Receive a text to your phone with a prayer that you are invited to pray throughout the week.
- Tuesday:** Watch Facebook for a post specific to the Monday prayer.
- Wednesday:** Receive an email highlighting a testimony from a CLC member with a specific bible verse or hymn/worship song that has specific meaning for them. Be inspired to look it up and see for yourself!
- Thursday:** Watch Facebook for a post specific to the Wednesday email
- Friday:** Christ Connection to your in-box
- Saturday:** Watch Facebook for a post highlighting something going on at CLC.
- Sunday:** Join us for Sunday Worship.



**Send Us
Your Photos!**

Please continue to send us photos of what you are up to this summer; vacation photos, photos of things that inspire you . . . As we continue to meet via Zoom, we continue to try to connect through pictures for the Communion Slide Show.

This weekend, we hope you will enjoy a trip down memory lane; we pulled some old photographs from the CLC Archives for our Communion Slide show that are sure to bring back memories.

Send photos to office@yourchrist.org.

Pastoral CARE

A Note from Pastor Erin about Pastoral Care

It may be some time before we are ready to gather in person for worship in the sanctuary again. Even so, I want to be sure that you are receiving the care and spiritual nourishment that you need. Please call me or email me if there is anything you need, or any ideas you have about ways we can connect with each other. We are considering outdoor services, small gatherings, additional Zoom Bible study opportunities, among other things. Your health and spiritual nurturing remain priorities in our shared ministry.

Pastor Erin