

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 26, 2020— Eighth 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 Sixth Petition:

Lead us not into temptation

What is this? OR What does this mean?

It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that, although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul writes that God will not let God's people be tempted beyond what they can bear but will always provide a solution or escape (10:13). This passage has led to a common misperception that 1) God causes temptation, and 2) there will never in our lives be unbearable circumstances or temptations.

Luther's explanation of this petition helps to dismantle those beliefs. In Luther's understanding, temptation comes through 3 things: the flesh, the world, or the devil (spiritual evil). The flesh tempts us into sins like laziness, greed and deceit. The world tempts us into sins like envy and malice and pride. The devil tempts us into sins like stubbornness, despair, and shame. By virtue of living in a society where some benefit more than others and some individual people or groups deny the humanity of other individuals or groups, while at the same time we all are interconnected, *none* of us can completely escape these temptations. Temptation - by the flesh, the world, or the devil - pulls us away from God and each other. However, in no case does God cause or even allow temptation.

Instead, we pray in this petition for God to save us from these things (as the new version of the Lord's prayer reads: 'save us from the time of trial.')

We do not assume that God will prevent temptation or even resolve it. Rather, we pray that God would give us the strength and courage to continue living Christian lives, even in the midst of temptation. We pray that we will have the strength and courage to resist temptation, even when it inescapably surrounds us.

Secondly, we pray because we recognize that *only* through God's salvation can we resist temptation. By its very nature, temptation will always overwhelm us. We pray for God to provide strength and courage - and we recognize that this may not remove the temptation at all. At times, the more we resist, the more tempted we feel. Thus, we inevitably fall into temptation and sinfulness and sometimes even despair. At those times, we cling to the forgiveness which God has already promised us. And we continue to pray that God deliver us from temptation and all that assails us, trusting that God will come to our aid.

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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Clarendon Hills



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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.*



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 Virtual Bible Study

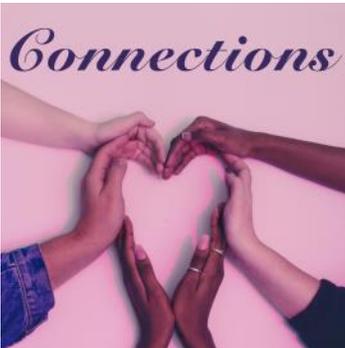
Schedule Change

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".

DIALOGUES

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.

Weekly Connections Schedule

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 in-box 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 clicking on this link office@yourchrist.org to let us know to add you, and beginning on Monday, August 3rd be a part of something bigger!

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: Read the Christ Connection to your in-box
Saturday: Watch Facebook for a post highlighting something going on at CLC.

Be a part of the
Communion
Slide Show

Send Us
Your Photos!

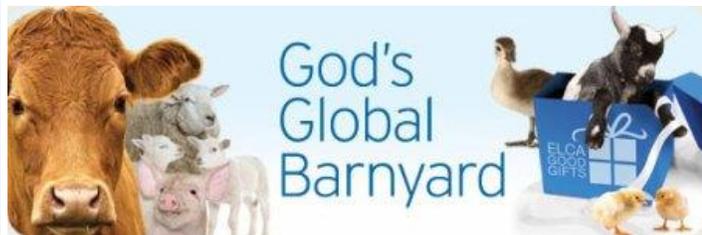


Send photos to office@yourchrist.org.



Log on to the church website to view the "Back to Worship" survey results.

www.yourchrist.org



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

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 the church office 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

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.

We are in the process of trying to find some places where these items can be donated (and possibly picked up). As soon as those organizations have been identified, we will let everyone know.

Rummage Sale Planning Team