

# 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 5, 2020— Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

## The Lord's Prayer – why and how we pray, part IV

*[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 Third Petition:  
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

*What is this? OR What does this mean?*

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayers but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

*How does this come about?*

Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will - as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh - that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's good and gracious will.

Jesus says, 'I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.' (John 10:10) We pray for this abundant life when we pray for God's will to be done. We pray for the strength and faith which enable us to help bring the kingdom of God here and now. This petition humbles us, reminding us that *our* will - our desires, needs, wants, and hopes - sometimes differ from *God's* will. When we believe Jesus' words that God's wants us to have abundant life, we can look hopefully for the ways God's will brings life to us and all of creation. We can lay down our defensiveness and respond to our neighbors with genuine humility and love.

This petition also strengthens us. God's will also prevents evil from 'winning.' Even when we feel attacked from all sides, or when the world seems to be falling apart, God provides a corrective. God brings hope not only for the 'here and future kingdom,' but also for this present moment. In any moment, a heart might be softened, a mind changed, a movement of the spirit spurred. In any moment - and we pray for it in *this* moment - God's will might be made manifest in and among us.

When we pray that God's will be done, we pray especially for those to whom Jesus reached in his own ministry. The cast out, oppressed, imprisoned, orphaned, poor, and sick especially look for God's will to be done. We pray that we might be strengthened and faithful to make possible the coming kingdom of God.

*Pastor Erin*

### Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. & noon  
Instructions at  
[www.yourchrist.org](http://www.yourchrist.org)

### Faith Formation

Wednesday mornings at  
11:30 a.m. begins again on  
July 8th

### 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  
Kristina Dickens  
Children & Family Ministries Director  
Mara Leonard—Organist

### Contact Information

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[www.YourChrist.org](http://www.YourChrist.org)

[Celebrationpreschool.com](http://Celebrationpreschool.com)  
(630) 325-3271



Christ Lutheran Church of  
Clarendon Hills



@ChristClarendon



# The Virtual Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, July 8, the Bible Study will be Dialogues On Race - a Lutheran resource that helps congregations talk about living faithfully in church and the world. If you would like to participate, but 11:30am on Wednesdays does not work for you, please contact Pastor Erin [pastor@yourchrist.org](mailto:pastor@yourchrist.org)

<https://zoom.us/j/277247648?pwd=K0t4N3VqRzlsclNYajlxMHNPM08yQT09>

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

**We are in need of people to serve on the CLC Mowing Teams! Volunteers will be properly trained to operate our riding lawn equipment and will rotate on a schedule every few weeks. Contact the church office for more details.**

# 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.*



**YOUR OPINION MATTERS**

## Christ Lutheran Church Return to Worship Survey

Keep up the great work - survey results keep coming in. Please reach out to the CLC office if you have not received a survey in your email or a phone call by next Friday, July 10th. We are personally contacting members who do not use email. We will re-send emails. The COVID Resiliency Team wants to ensure that

everyone has an opportunity to share their viewpoint before we publish the aggregate results in the coming weeks. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete. We’re counting on you.

**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.

*Christ Lutheran Church*

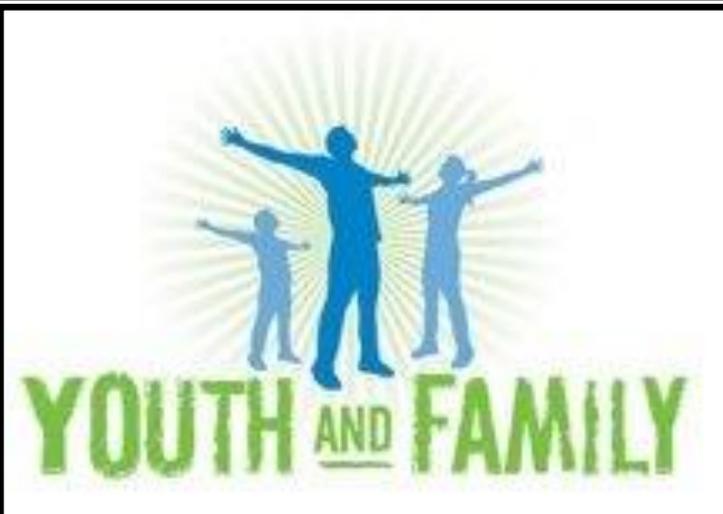
**Staff Updates**

**Director of Social Media Marketing**

CLC's council is pleased to announce a successful search for a Director of Social Media Marketing. **Dan Cramer** joins CLC's staff team in this 5-hour/week position. Dan brings both professional training and personal experience with social media and our congregation to the position. Please welcome him and watch for ways that you, too, can help CLC reach the community with the message of Jesus' love.

**Organist**

Today, we also regretfully say 'goodbye' to **Mara Leonard** as CLC's organist. She has accepted a weekly position at an Episcopal Church in Western Springs. We have enjoyed her musical leadership over the last year, and wish her the best in her new position. Please join us in wishing her well. Plans are already underway for covering organ-based hymns and preludes during the interim, until we are able to hire another organist.



In the budget passed by the congregation in February 2020, the Director of Youth & Family Ministries position was reduced to a 9 month position. Thus, Ms. Kristina does not work in June, July and August.

**HOWEVER, Youth and Family Ministry continues.**

Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Beginning NEXT WEEK on July 12, Pastor Erin will meet anyone who wants to join at 8:30 for a 15-minute interactive children's time. There will be a story and time for sharing. If you can, have a cup or small bowl of water with you. Also, children will be invited to 'show and tell' something that reminds them God loves them - so they can have that ready to 'show' too.

Also, keep an eye out for invitations to help with BOLT Vacation Bible School - coming in August.

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 nurture remain priorities in our shared ministry.

*Pastor Erin*



**Watch for information on BOLT Bible School coming in August!**