

Christ Connection

LINKS to ZOOM Worship

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 November 1, 2020—All Saints' Sunday



“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *Matthew 5:11-12*

This Sunday, we hear a reading from Matthew commonly called the Beatitudes. Jesus begins the famed Sermon on the Mount with these words of generous blessing for those whom the world has forced down or out or to the side - maybe even so far as to be unseen. Once again, God's generosity extends to those who society at best overlooks and at worst denigrates or even persecutes.

Many of us may hear ourselves and our own stories in the blessings Jesus offers. We may be poor, mournful, meek, hungry, merciful, a peace activist, or persecuted. When Jesus offers blessing, we may particularly *want* to claim those identities or experiences. However, in much of our lives, many of us prefer to separate from those experiences. I would rather be rich (or at least satiated), happy, vigorous, full, powerful, in my own bubble, and praised! These experiences better define what I hope for and look for in my life. This desire undergirds what it means to be mortal. Life itself seems to require this list of 'good' things. In this case, I consider those whom Jesus calls blessed and think how nice it is for God to throw them a bone in a harsh and demanding world which will ultimately kill them.

In the last blessing, though, Jesus' language shifts from "blessed are those who" to "blessed are you." Suddenly, the world tilts. Suddenly, Jesus is talking to *me*. I do want to be blessed! I do want to claim Jesus' blessing. But I don't want to be insulted, persecuted, or slandered. Rejoicing with gladness doesn't come easy in those times. Yet Jesus is calling me - and you - to engage the world not simply as mortal *but also* as moral. Our desire to prolong a good and easy life makes sense as mortal beings who know that we one day will die. But Jesus' blessing extends to us when we willingly give up some of the 'goodness' of life so we might live and give our lives on behalf of others.

This week, there is an election in the United States. As Lutheran Christians, we understand participating in civil government as a vocation - a call from God. We reject the idea that government can ever be perfect. We do not teach that God ordains certain people to government positions. We do not even teach that moral people will come to the same conclusions about how to vote on issues or which candidates will strive for the most moral policies. But we do hold strongly to the belief that our moral convictions, based in faith and hope in God, guide our civil engagement.

As we make decisions this week, Jesus' words invite us to think not only of our mortal lives but of our moral lives. We will likely feel blessed when we make decisions that support our mortal lives. Still, Jesus says that we *are* blessed when we make moral choices. Those that lift up the unseen, denigrated, and persecuted.

For those who have already voted, as your pastor I commend you for engaging this call from God. For others (like me!) who have yet to do so, may you be guided by your moral convictions based in your faith and hope in our generous God. And as results come in - however the civil world reacts - may we choose the path of blessing, as we live and give our lives on behalf of others.

Pastor Erin

Sunday Worship

9:00 am and noon on ZOOM
www.yourchrist.org

Faith Formation

Check out page 2 for more information on Dialogues on Race and Timothy & Titus studies

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

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IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Beginning on November 1st we will be changing the worship style for our noon worshippers. The 12:00 service that has been the same as the 9AM Zoom service will transition to an interactive Zoom service. On November 1, the service will be a video filmed in St. James' sanctuary of traditional worship with the "Now the Feast and Celebration" liturgy.

Beginning November 8, the service will be an interactive format instead of a video.



Handbell Ringers Wanted

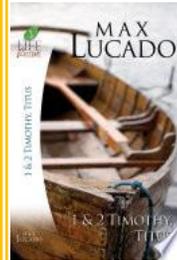
CLC's handbell choir would like to begin rehearsals in a safe, socially-distanced manner at the church, but are in need of new ringers in order to accommodate the musical selections. If you are interested in learning more about playing handbells, our handbell director, Jo Chiko, would love to talk to you! Email Jo at kjochiko-01@yahoo.com

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RACE

The Monday evening Bible study will wrap up in November. The rest of the schedule for that study is:

11/9 - Chapter 6 11/23 - Chapter 7 (final)



The Thursday Bible Study will begin meeting on Zoom, and will be studying the book 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus: Life Lessons. It is scheduled for November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89426491954?>



You may have noticed that we are trying to incorporate many different people into our Sunday worship services. **If you would like to volunteer to be a virtual assisting minister, we'd love to hear from you!!** All it takes is a cell phone! Contact the church office and someone will reach out to you.



Pastor Erin and the CLC Worship Team would like to hear from you with feedback relating to worship; whether it's about our regular Zoom services or worship outdoors on the hill. What are your thoughts? Is there something you would like to see implemented? Music you would like to hear? Please take a moment and send us an email (with Worship Feedback in the subject line) so that we can share your input. The Worship Team meets on the first Monday evening of each month. Send emails to office@yourchrist.org or you may reach out to Pastor Erin directly at Pastor@yourchrist.org.



Youth & Family Ministry is sponsoring a Holiday Tree at the Brookfield Zoo this year, **and CLC members are invited to participate.** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 15th** for the Brookfield Zoo Community Tree Trim. This year much planning is necessary due to COVID. Please email KristinaDickens15@gmail.com as soon as possible if you would like to join us! **Deadline to register is Sunday, November 1, 2020.** If you have your own zoo membership, you do not need to reserve tickets with me, but you will need to obtain your time slot through your membership online. **Please email me** and let me know you are joining us via your family membership so I may include you in the ornament making emails for this Holiday Tree Trim. **Christ Lutheran Church's day to decorate is Sunday, November 15th, 2020. We may only decorate on this day.** More details on the event will be emailed to those who are attending this holiday event. We have 6 tickets available! If you would like to carpool with another family with COVID safety, please email Ms. Kristina.



Please join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Tricia for the Christ Craft

Corner. We will be making a Thanksgiving craft for all the children to enjoy. Please watch for an email from Ms. Kristina on the delivery date of the craft kit to all the Sunday School children. If your child is not registered in Sunday School and would like to join us for the craft, please email Ms. Kristina. Stay tuned for Zoom information.

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In this time of social distancing and trying to stay safe, many of us are relying on Amazon.com for deliveries of items from bananas to kitty litter, not to mention the upcoming Christmas Shopping season. It's easy, it's safe, and it's a way to help fund the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church through the Amazon Smile program.

What is Amazon Smile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Christ Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support the ministries of CLC. It's completely free and easy to set up with your existing Amazon.com account.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile you need to select Christ Lutheran Church as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply.

It's easy, it's completely free, and it helps the church. It's a win-win!!



Enjoy that extra hour of sleep on Sunday morning and be on time for All Saints' Sunday! Set those clocks back one hour on Saturday night!