# Let God be true though every one were a liar.

**Romans 3:4** 

ROMANS: The Theology of the Gospel

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 2, 2023 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-6263 www.christlcms.org Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor Amanda Adams, DCE



#### <u>As We Gather</u>

Please take time to fill out the fellowship pad located near the center aisle in your pew. If you have any prayer requests, feel free to use a prayer request card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate after the sermon. (For those joining us online, please contact the church office.) We will include these requests in our prayers during worship and share them with our prayer chain (if desired).

#### Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.



#### Welcome and Opening Prayer



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and tune: Public domain

#### Divine Service Setting Four, page 203

#### + Confession and Absolution +

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, "To absolve of sin and wrongdoing," more specifically, to affirm God's forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

#### Invocation

 $\mathbb{P}$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 203

- $\mathbf{P}$  Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- ▶ Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

#### **Confession of Sins**

LSB 203

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

#### Absolution

#### [John 20:19–23] LSB 203

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

#### Service of the Word

#### Introit

- **P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
- **C** with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- **C** who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
- **P** who exult in your name all the day
- **C** and in your righteousness are exalted.
- **P** For you are the glory of their strength;
- **C** by your favor our horn is exalted.
- **P** For our shield belongs to the LORD,
- **C** our king to the Holy One of Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- **P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
- **C** with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

#### Kyrie

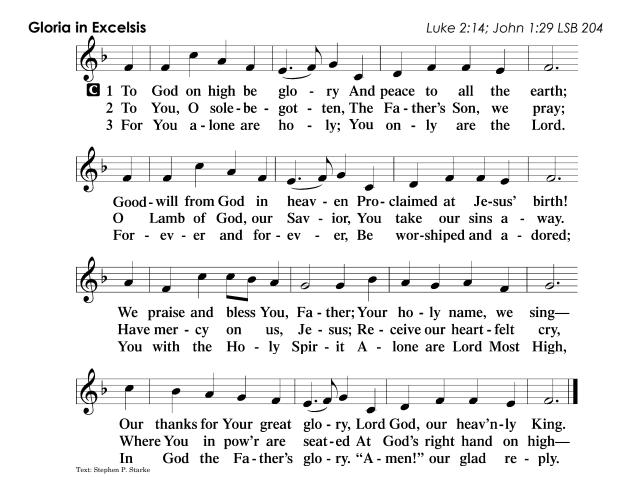
Mark 10:47 204

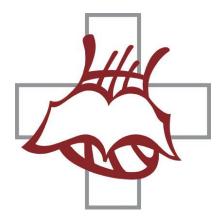
A Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy!" A brief prayer not only imploring God's mercy but rejoicing in it through Jesus Christ.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.







#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

"Salutation" is a word from Latin meaning, "to salute" or "to greet." "Collect" (KAH-lekt), a brief structured prayer, usually consisting of five parts: address to God, basis for the prayer, petition, desired benefit or result, and trinitarian conclusion. The Collect of the Day also "collects" the message of the day's Gospel reading.

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

#### **P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### Sit

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 28:5–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 28.

<sup>5</sup>Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Epistle

Romans 3:1–8

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 3.

<sup>1</sup>Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? <sup>2</sup>Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. <sup>3</sup>What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?  $^4\mathrm{By}$  no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

"That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

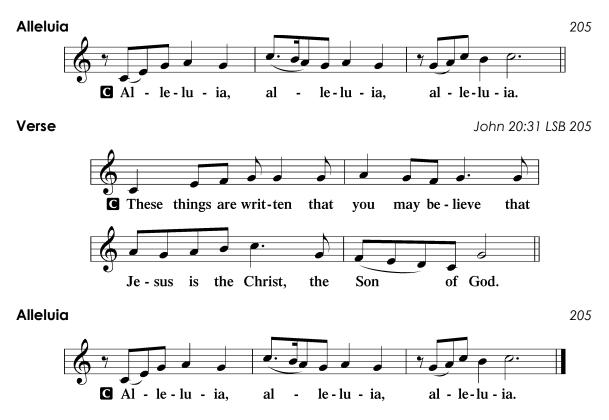
<sup>5</sup>But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) <sup>6</sup>By no means! For then how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup>But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? <sup>8</sup>And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.



Stand

#### Alleluia and Verse



#### **Holy Gospel**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

#### **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>34</sup>[Jesus said:] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup>"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. <sup>41</sup>The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.



#### Nicene Creed

Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.

<b>C</b> ]	[ be]	lieve	in	one	God,
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the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

#### **Children's Message**

Matthew 19:14; Mark 13:13-15; Luke 18:16

Children are invited to join Amanda Adams, our Director of Christian Education, at the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.



#### Sermon

#### Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving through Vanco at **bit.ly/GivingChristLCMS** for a one-time or recurring gift. You may also download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app and search for Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Direct links and additional information are available on the church website (christlcms.org/giving).



1 Timothy 2:1-4

For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).

Stand

#### Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond, **"Hear our prayer."** 

**P** ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 208

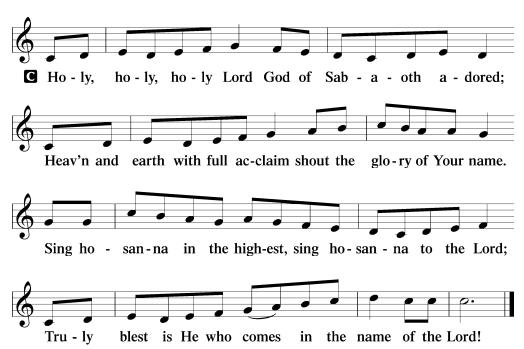
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 208



#### (SAHNK-toose), "Sanctus" is Latin for "holy".

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

 ■ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a lifegiving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### Lord's Prayer

 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

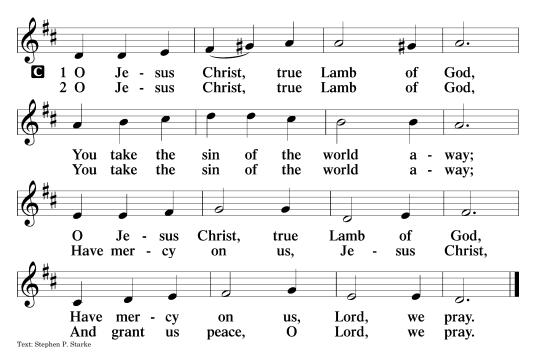
#### Pax Domini

(PAKS DOH-mee-nee), Latin for "peace of the Lord" (John 20:19).

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.

#### Agnus Dei

(AHG-noose DAY-ee). Latin for "Lamb of God."

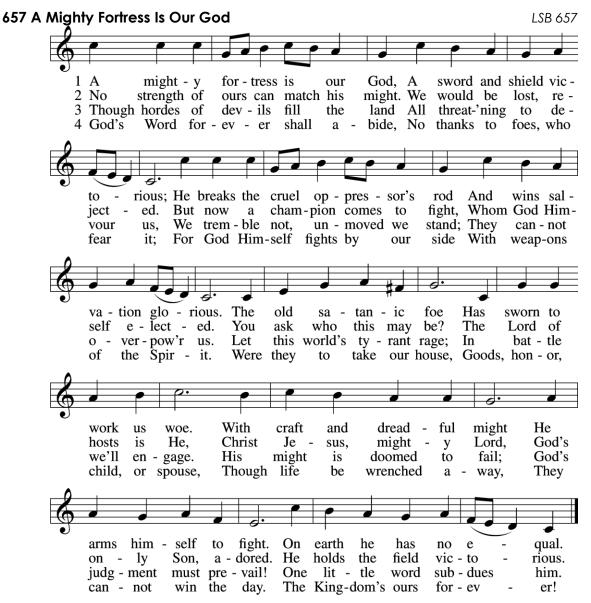


Sit

#### Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. Then they will distribute it to those who cannot come up to the altar rail due to physical ailments. Following that the ushers will dismiss the people from their pews to go to the altar rail. The congregation will be ushered down the middle aisle to go up to the rail and when dismissed from there will use the side aisle to return to their seats. All are invited up to receive a blessing.





Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199; Tune: Public domain



682 God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons

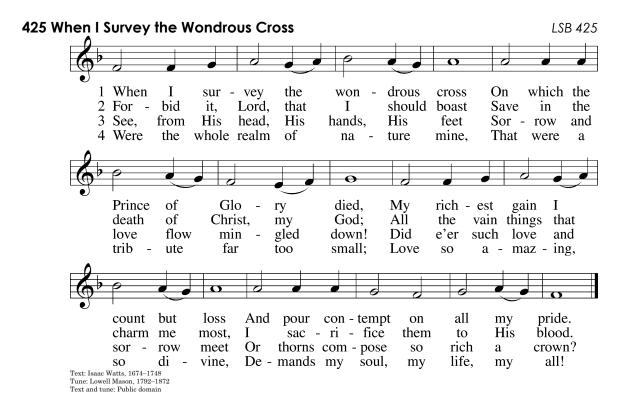


Text: Denis Wortman, 1835-1922, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain



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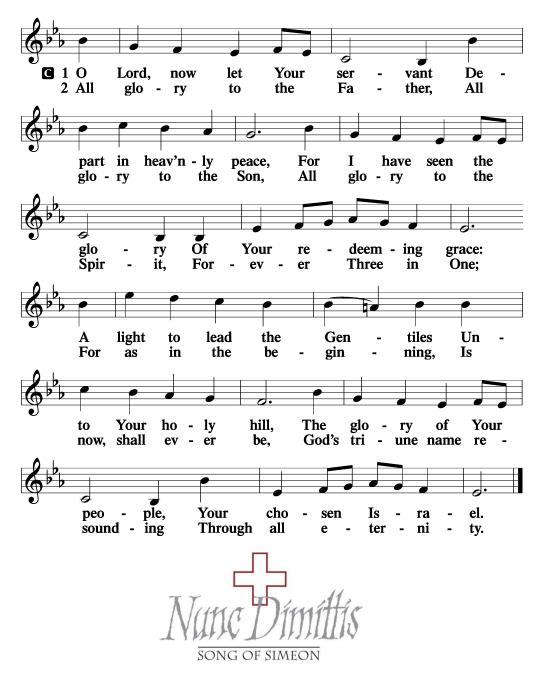
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Stand



#### **Nunc Dimittis**

(NUNK dih-MIH-tuss). Latin for "now [let your servant] depart," from the Song of Simeon.



#### Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### Benedicamus

icamus (beh-neh-dih-KAH-moose), Latin for "bless we [the Lord]." We give thanks to God for everything He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

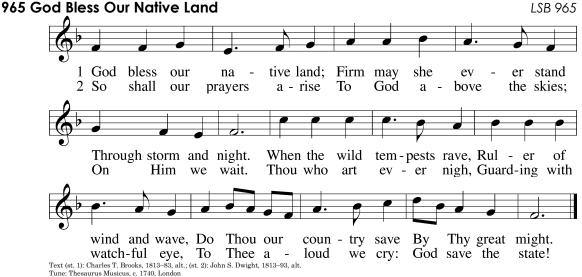
#### **Benediction**

A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.

Sit





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Acknowledgments

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## -- Week at a Glance --

Sunday July 2		Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults)	
Monday July 3			
Tuesday July 4		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Independence Day	
Wednesday July 5		Women's Morning Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study	
Thursday July 6	2:00 pm	Chair Aerobics	
Friday July 7			
Saturday July 8		TLS Memorabilia Pick Up Men's Bible Study (Zoom)	
Sunday July 9	9:15 am 11:45 am 1:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults) Potluck Meal Ice Cream Social & Pie Auction College/Yong Adult Group (ages 18-25)	

#### **Celebrating**

**Birthdays:** Parker A. (2<sup>nd</sup>); Jaylen O., Clayton P. (3<sup>rd</sup>); Lois N. (5<sup>th</sup>); Jan C., Mayah M., Garry N. (6<sup>th</sup>); Damion B. (8<sup>th</sup>); KeyShawn S. (9<sup>th</sup>)

**Baptism Birthdays:** Hannah N., Simon S. (3<sup>rd</sup>); Garry N. (6<sup>th</sup>); Nikolai H. (7<sup>th</sup>); Lydia B. (8<sup>th</sup>); Nancy G. (9<sup>th</sup>)

Anniversaries: Brad & Stephanie M. (2nd); Phil & Greta H., Duane & Linda S. (7th)

### -- Announcements --

#### Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Romans (with Pastor Ben) – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym) God's Word for Today: 1, 2, & 3 John (Small Group) – Basement Meeting Room A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Meeting Room near Gym

#### Children/Youth Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Children (Pre-K through  $6^{th}$  grade) – Upstairs Education Wing Youth ( $7^{th}-12^{th}$  grades) – Basement Youth Room

#### Women's Morning Bible Study

Leaning on Jesus – Wednesdays at 10 AM – Coffee Lobby (Kids can play in gym.)

#### Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Luke – Wednesdays at 6 PM – Basement (Please note new time!)

#### Potluck + Ice Cream Social/Pie Auction

Join us in the gym on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>! LWML will host a potluck meal after worship services conclude (11:45 AM). Please bring a main dish or side to share. Dessert will be served by Christ Youth at their Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction (1 PM).

Enjoy vanilla ice cream and our sundae bar, and stay for the fun and excitement of our pie auction! We'll even auction off a special whipped cream pie – the winner will get to give Pastor Ben a pie in the face! Proceeds of the free will offering and pie auction will help offset costs for Christ Youth attending upcoming district and national youth gatherings.

If you would like to bring a pie for the auction, please sign up on the bulletin board in the coffee lobby.

#### Voters' Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend a congregational voters' meeting on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM, during the Sunday School hour. At our last voters' meeting, the voters agreed that we (as a congregation) can begin the necessary preparations for starting the call process for an Associate Pastor (to work in addition to Pastor Ben) as we continue to grow as a church. This meeting will address one of those steps, making revisions to our constitution and bylaws.

#### Survey – Pastoral Characteristics

The Pastoral Characteristics Survey is another necessary step as we prepare to start the call process for an Associate Pastor. Please fill out this survey on our website (christlcms.org) or pick up a paper copy in the coffee lobby.

### -- Announcements --

#### Call Committee

The Call Committee is the group of members from Christ tasked with looking through potential seminary candidates and (with prayerful consideration) finding our new Associate Pastor. The Call Committee is appointed by the Head Elder and the President of the Congregation. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact John Hart (Head Elder) or Charles Hartman (President of the Congregation). Not all interested parties will be able to be on the committee, but all will be considered.

#### July Fellowship Night – Potluck, Games, and Paint

WWF is on a break for the summer, but the food and fun will continue! Join us on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> for a potluck dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by your choice of games or a Bob Ross paint-along! If you would like to participate in the painting project, please sign up on the bulletin board in the coffee lobby or contact the church office – we need an approximate head count for supplies. All ages are welcome!

#### Neighborhood Block Party

Mark your calendar! We're hosting a neighborhood block party here at Christ on Friday, July  $14^{th}$  from 5 PM to 7 PM. We'll have free burgers and hot dogs, as well as yard games and a bounce house on site!

We need volunteers! We will be distributing door hangers to our neighbors ahead of the event, and we also need helpers for the event itself. Please sign up in the coffee lobby.

#### **Dillons Community Rewards**

Christ is now enrolled in the Dillons Community Rewards program! To participate, you must sign into your digital account for your Dillons card. You can search for our organization by name (Christ Lutheran Church LCMS) or enter our non-profit organization (NPO) number – LD157. Select our name from the list and hit "save." Once you have designated Christ as your organization of choice, we will receive a small donation from Kroger each time you scan your Dillons card. We have included a link on our website's homepage (christlcms.org) for your convenience.

#### TLS Memorabilia Pick Up.

TLS alumni, former students, and church members are invited to stop by Topeka Lutheran School on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am to noon, to select and pick up any TLS memorabilia such as trophies, library books, frisbees (Growing God's Children), t-shirts (Grow Our School), etc. Please contact your Pastor or church office if you have gifted a large item to the school that you would like to be given to your church, so that arrangements can be made to transport from TLS to the church. Items will be placed in the TLS gym; pick up will be in person, first come, first serve, no holds.

### -- Announcements --

#### Touch a Truck

Save the date! Our third annual Touch a Truck event will be on Saturday, August  $5^{\text{th}}$ .

#### Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Luke H., Don L., Jerry M., Jean (Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Vikki N., Matt N., Virginia C., Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Ted M., Garry N., Mark (Carol J.'s friend), Wayne B., David (Sondra K.'s son), Kim (friend of the Micheels), Dick H., Betty H., Dorothy (Wayne K.'s sister-in-law), Nick (Hannah M.'s cousin), Sharon H., Lila N., Darleen C., Brandon B., Dennis L., Bob H., Marsha S., James (father-in-law of Norlinda C.), and others named in your heart. Pray for the Topeka Rescue Mission, Chelsea Irwin and missionaries around the world. We pray especially for those around the world being persecuted for their faith in the one, true God and the suffering they endure. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, our staff and their families as they do our Lord's work here at Christ Lutheran. We also pray for those who serve in the armed forces, first responders, and for our country and government. Prayers of thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior and the new life we have in Him.



## JULY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: POTLUCK, GAMES, AND PAINT -- WEDNESDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM --



SIGN UP IN THE COFFEE LOBBY!





#### The Lord Jesus Brings Division on Earth for the Sake of Peace with God in Heaven

False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken "war, famine, and pestilence" (Jer. 28:8). But if "the LORD has truly sent the prophet," he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and "the word of that prophet comes to pass" (Jer. 28:9). The preaching of God's Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, "sinful beyond measure," thereby "producing death" in the sinner (Rom. 7:13). But through our Baptism into Christ, "we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive" (Rom. 7:6). Now we belong "to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God" (Rom. 7:4). Belonging to Him puts us at odds with the world and divides us from all earthly ties, not only from our human family, but each person from his own life. For Christ does not come "to bring peace, but a sword" (Matt. 10:34). Yet, whoever takes up his cross to follow Christ, and "loses his life" for Christ's sake, finds new life in Him (Matt. 10:38–39).

#### Worship Attendance – Sunday, June 25th

 $\begin{array}{c} 8:00 \ AM-62 \\ 10:30 \ AM-64 \end{array}$ 

### Stewardship Corner

Budgeted Weekly Needs: Offerings Received – Week of 6/25	\$ \$	8,945 6,123
Budgeted Needs (Jan-May 2023) Offerings Received (Jan-May 2023)		196,790 180,109
Building Fund Offerings Received – Week of 6/25	\$	1,907

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Mark 10:42 – "And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." The tithes and offerings you give to the Lord's work in His church go toward supporting all manner of discipleship. They provide for a minister of the Gospel to preach, teach and conduct the Sacraments; they provide for our missionaries and ministries of mercy here and abroad; and they make sure that the folks in your area have a place to go to worship the Lord. The Lord is pleased with this work, and He wants to bless you through your support of it.