

Cross Ties

Monthly newsletter of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
3204 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415
church@cocluth.com ~ 423-877-7447 ~ www.cocluth.com

APRIL

2020



Our Mission Statement

To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

Our Vision Statement

We are committed to reaching out to the local community and supporting world-wide ministries, as we embrace and nurture current and new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.

Statement of Faith

Cross of Christ is a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We accept and teach the inspired word of God from the Bible.



Every Sunday is Easter Sunday!

I have a question for your consideration: Isn't that statement at the top of this article the reality behind every single Sunday morning worship service? Certainly, that was the rationale behind the Early Church's decision to hold the commemoration and celebration of Jesus' resurrection on "the first day of the week," isn't it? Easter joy and remembrance 52 times per year... that's not a bad idea, right? I mention all this because I want you to consider something in connection with the possibility of the disruption of our regular Easter morning activities this year. Since we know that April 12th will not provide us the opportunity for a normal schedule, would you please give some thought to an alternative I heard about several days ago from a fellow minister -- "we are proceeding with plans for a full Easter celebration whether that's in May, or June, or September, or November... whenever we can again gather to sing and pray and listen to God's Word together as His Family."

When that happens, "Alleluias" will again ring out with our joyful voices in our Sanctuary and from those across Chattanooga and around the world. As we move closer to Holy Week and consider the last days of our Savior's life, some of those great hymns of Christendom come to mind with their profound messages: "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty," "Go to Dark Gethsemane," "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," "Were You There." And then remembering that first Easter morning, we turn to hymns like "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "O Sons and Daughters of the King," "The Day of Resurrection," and "He's Risen, He's Risen."

What a message of hope and reassurance those wonderful lyrics provide us as they lift up Scriptural truths, under scoring them for us in meaningful and memorable words and phrases. I'm sure that you are as excited as I am to join with our brothers and sisters here at Cross of Christ, in raising our voices to the Lord in "Hosanna's and Hallelujahs" to our Savior and King.

As we await that day of gathering again, may the Lord continue to bless us through our on-line worship, our Lenten devotions, and our mutual encouragement by email, text and phone.

My dear daughters and sons of the resurrection, let us remain steadfast in our praise to our Heavenly Father and united by our Savior's blood, as the Holy Spirit fills us with hope and joy!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Hildebrandt



Palm Sunday

The online service will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday. We have palms that can be picked up on Friday (tomorrow) or Saturday in anticipation of our Palm Sunday service. They will be located in the breezeway by the office entrance, along with the smaller lapel-size palm crosses. Please take only one (1) of the large palms per family or if you have children, one (1) per child. *PLEASE fold over the end of the bag after you have taken out the leaf and reclip the bag, to keep the palms supple.*

The palms will survive in a well-lit air-conditioned space, but do not put near a heat source or in direct sunlight. Brown tips are a natural feature of a healthy palm leaf. When you get home, cut the stem at a 45-degree angle above the bottom end of the stem. Place in cold water. You can also place it in ICE WATER for 1-3 hours if your leaves are tightly folded or “closed”, as this will open up the leaves.

A smaller palm cross for each member of your family can also be picked up.

(The April-June Portals of Prayer are also in the breezeway if you haven't picked one up. Just be sure to hear the click on each end of the white plastic box after you take out a book, which means the lid is securely on and won't fly away.)



Maundy Thursday

The online service will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9th. At the conclusion of the service, Pastor will be stripping the altar while Matt reads Psalm 88, as we begin to think about the Good Friday service and the Easter service to follow.

Some of you have asked about having private communion during Holy Week. After much prayer and deliberation with our Elders and congregational president, (taking in the current pandemic circumstances, and the “Stay-at-Home” Order from Governor Lee and the recent “Shelter-in-Place” Order by Mayor Berke), we will be like other LCMS congregations who have determined that this should be suspended for a time, out of love for those who might contract the deadly Covid-19 virus.

We acknowledge that this is a hardship, but at other times in history, Lutherans often went weeks or months without the Lord's Supper, such as during the early years of frontier America, when congregations were without a Pastor for lengthy time periods. And, in the early 20th century during the great influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, many Missouri Synod churches were not able to meet for any services during a period of time. We want to continue

to promote and encourage the proper practice of the Lord's Supper in faithfulness to the teaching and example of Christ. We are not in uncharted territory as noted here. What is new though are the blessings we have with modern technology and the ability to share our services with each other at the same time.

It is best said from a document that we received from our LCMS Headquarters in St. Louis... “As great as the hardship is when we cannot receive Christ's body and blood, the hardship ought not be “resolved” in ways that promise an uncertain “sacrament” without the absolute assurance that Christ intends. It is better humbly and repentantly to ask the Lord for the regular administration of the Sacrament of the Altar to be restored to us, together with an end to the “deadly pestilence” that is killing thousands of souls who are precious to God, their Creator” (see Psalm 91; Jonah 4:11).



Good Friday

The online service will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10th. (There will not be a noon time service.) At the conclusion of the service, Pastor asks us to maintain a time of silence while we think about Christ's death on the cross. We pray that our worship this day will help us grasp the enormous love and compassion our Savior has for each of us.



Easter Sunday

The online Easter Celebration will begin at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday, April 12th. As noted on the previous page in Pastor's Letter, we are already proceeding with plans for a full Easter celebration in the future, whether that's in May, or June, or September, or November... whenever we can again gather to sing, pray and listen to God's Word together as His Family, along with celebrating the Lord's Supper in the company of other Christians. There then will be “Alleluia's” ringing out from our doors and windows from the joyful voices in our Sanctuary. We can already anticipate the excitement in our hearts as we think about that time when we will join with our brothers and sisters here at Cross of Christ. We will celebrate the day with our voices and spirits raising in “Hosanna's and Hallelujah's” to our Savior and King, as the assembly of Cross of Christ comes back together.

From the Congregational President...

As the Lutheran Hour Ambassador for Cross of Christ, I wanted to share their latest service to us: During this critical period, Lutheran Hour Ministries has free resources available online for you! The Lutheran Hour delivers sermons every Sunday morning that are relevant and share truth. The sermon is available to listen to online and as a podcast. LHM Learn is an online learning platform that has free courses on many different topics. Take some classes while you have some extra time on your hands. Gospel Adventures provides kids and adults a way to take a mission trip, from your living room! And, don't forget the daily devotions, available as a mobile app or via email! Visit <https://www.lhm.org/covid-19/> to find these resources and more!



~Larry Zehnder



Hygiene Kit Assembly has been moved to
Tuesday, May 19th at NOON
unless further notice given.

LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

Collecting **NEW** and **UNUSED**:

- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size conditioner
- Travel size soap
- Travel size lotion
- Travel size toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Nail clippers
- Disposable razor
- Wide-tooth comb
- Packs of purse-size Kleenex
- Individually wrapped handi-wipes

**** Please no travel size mouthwash ****

Our hygiene kits are delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen, for distribution to our homeless neighbors in the community.



**BCA IS CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 27TH
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**CHURCH DIRECTORY
COMING SOON!**



A new photo church directory is in the works! It will be powered by *Instant Church Directory* and will be available securely and privately online or via a free mobile app. Printed copies will also be available.

A "Picture Day" date at church is yet to be determined. You may also submit your own favorite photo if you wish. More details to follow.


Questions or concerns? Contact Carmen Autry at **423-903-4446**. Please leave a voicemail if no answer.
OR email: coclcdirectory@gmail.com

Church Website & Facebook Pages...

Updates and/or Info. can be emailed to:
secretary@cocluth.com
and changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!

May Newsletter Deadline:
April 20th

Please email Rachel Schlie with any important information for the newsletter at:
rachel.schlie@outlook.com

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Email: church@cocluth.com

Office: 423-877-7447

Info. Line: 423-648-0995

FAX: 423-870-2990

www.cocluth.com

Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier

Chattanooga Community Kitchen

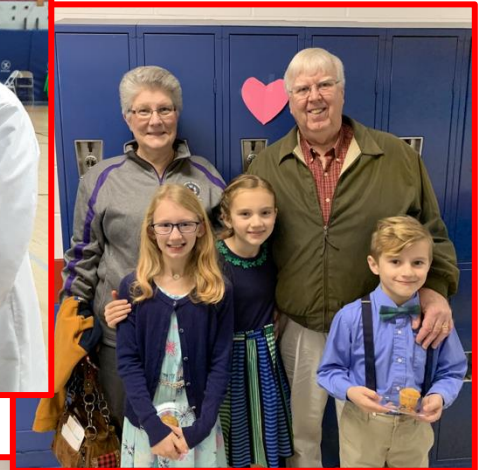
On Feb. 19, The Anglican Church of the Redeemer sponsored a luncheon which included about a dozen CoC members present, including Pastor Hildebrandt, and approximately 20 members from the Redeemer, including their Pastor, Father Hanner. The purpose of this luncheon was a melding of each church's members who are involved in the lunch-serving program at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. We had a delightful meal of "Senate Black Bean Soup" prepared by the Redeemer staff at their church. During lunch, each person introduced themselves and briefly described the Outreach programs they represented and the importance of this participation. We were given a tour of the church and told its interesting history. Those of us who were able to attend are most grateful for the extended hands of friendship and look forward to maintaining our mutually beneficial program aiding the less fortunate at the Community Kitchen.

~Tony Pessini, Elder

MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA...

As an update to Regena Kressenberg's trip to Kampala Uganda, we were able to give her a check for \$1,129.00 from Cross of Christ. This check, along with other private donations dropped off in the office, amounted to \$1,589.00 which we raised for her mission trip. Regena was overwhelmed with our generosity and extends her thanks to everyone who contributed to her trip. She stated that she has been truly blessed by others.

She has also recently received word that she will not be leaving to begin her travels on June 1st as had planned, due to the pandemic. She will eventually be heading to the Tumaini Counseling Center in Kampala to serve as a counselor to all missionaries in Africa, but especially to the Africa Inland Missionaries (AIM). Please remember her in your prayers as she waits for the word to pack her bags and undertake this new chapter in her life for the next two years. We also pray for safety in her travels to her new home, while she is working at the counseling center, and while traveling around Kampala.



Photos, top to bottom:

1. Jane Rudat, Outreach Director for Creative Discovery Museum, with Mikanzie Lanier at BCA's "Science of Art" Day during Lutheran Schools Week
2. Rev. Donald Coulter & wife, Judy, with grandkids Edith, Margret & William McCall on Grandparents' Day at BCA
3. Eunice Timm & other volunteers assisting with the Scholastic Book Fair at BCA
4. Last Lenten meal of chili before the coronavirus craziness



Concordia Publishing House (CPH)

In lieu of including a printed history of CPH, I encourage you to check out the slideshow done by CPH in celebration of their 150th anniversary in 2019. It begins in 1869 when they first started and goes through to today, including some great accompanying photographs. <https://www.cph.org/150/history.html>

From the CPH website: “The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has a process by which all materials published by its national entities are reviewed in order to certify that the content is faithful to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. As the publishing arm of the LCMS, Concordia Publishing House is required to submit its materials to the Synod’s doctrinal review process.” Their materials include the following and then some:

CPH Resources/Materials Available for You

- Academic Books
- Bibles
- Bible Studies
- Books for: Children, Teens, Adults
- Catechism/Confirmation
- Commentaries
- Devotions
- Hymnals
- Music
- Prayer Books
- Professional Books
- Religion Curriculum
- Service Planning
- Sunday School Materials
- VBS Programs
- Worship Planning
- Youth Ministry

Each category above has numerous sub-categories. CPH offers over 8,000 products & services!

**CPH is currently offering a variety of FREE resources on their website during this time. Visit www.cph.org to check them out.*



Recognize any of these past/present CPH logos on your own or an ancestor’s Bible, book or other CPH published item?

In the event April services are held:

April Worship ASSISTANTS

ALTAR GUILD

Donna Flippin & Barbara Wyatt

ACOLYTES, Sunday, 9 a.m.

- 5th: Zachary Land
- 12th: Nathan Pugh
- 19th: Zachary Land
- 26th: Chloe Doebler & Zoe Riethmeier

ELDERS

Saturday, 6:00 0.m.

Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Byron Brakenhoff & Bob Timm

GREETERS, Saturday, 6 p.m.

- 4th: Joel & Rhonda Duncan
- 11th: Brad & Jamie Mofsky
- 18th: Nancy Ashby & Rose Roelofs
- 25th: Scott Brewster

GREETERS, Sunday, 9 a.m.

- 5th: John & Pat Stehr (Palm Sunday)
- 12th: Tony & Maria Pessini (Easter)
- 19th: Bob & Eunice Timm
- 26th: Schlie Family

READERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (Saturday) | (Sunday) |
| 4 th : Rhonda Duncan | 5 th : John Stehr |
| 11 th : Brad Mofsky | 12 th : John & Jane Rudat |
| 18 th : Sylvia Hildebrandt | 19 th : Mike & Monica Witherby |
| 25 th : Scott Brewster | 26 th : Natalie Doebler |

USHERS

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9 a.m.

Marc Flippin, Zachary Land & Ray Veldman



THOUGHTS FOR HOLY WEEK

All Things In Common...



Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...

Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

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Loosed From Death...



Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

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"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

—Elizabeth C. Clephane

Easter Around The World...

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

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A Reason To Laugh...

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term "*risus paschalis*," or "the Easter laugh," saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan's defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that "we are fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.



APRIL CALENDAR

You will note that there is not a monthly calendar attached to your newsletter. Until we receive word that we can again hold worship services or restart our regularly scheduled gatherings and Outreach programs, there is really nothing to put on the calendar. Let our prayers continue for God to watch over each of us and our loved ones during this pandemic. ~Lorilynn