

Cross Ties

Monthly newsletter of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
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February

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.



From the Pastor...

Giving Our All!

Even though we will be starting the Lenten Season at the very end of this month, I'm going to save my thoughts and ruminations regarding Lent until next month's newsletter. So, as the Gospel lessons this month have us examining our Lord's early ministry and focusing on His calling of His disciples, I want us to consider Christ's continuing challenge to be His witnesses to those around us.

"It's in all the settings of our daily lives, whether those are school, work, leisure or whatever-related, that we live out our faith."

His call to follow Him, it seems to me, demands that we realize how vital it is for us to concentrate on the totality of "life in His service." All too often we tend to compartmentalize our lives – setting aside this much time and energy for work, this much for family, this much for church-involvement, and so on. Yet the love of God in Christ (who gave His all for us) calls us to respond with that same kind of all-inclusive and complete love and care, don't you think? It's in all the settings of our daily lives, whether those are school, work, leisure or whatever-related, that we live out our faith.

Certainly, we humans fail in our efforts to live totally for Jesus: as we fall prey to Satan's wiles, give in to our own sinful flesh, and give up the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit. Nonetheless, our Savior stands ready to forgive the failings of our past and to empower us for the days ahead. He continues to work in us and through us, enabling us both to better understand His Will and then to commit to a day-to-day and hour-by-hour walking in His ways.

May we never be satisfied with lives that are anything less than total service to Him! (As the current TV commercials keep reminding us... "Just O.K. is not O.K.!") Our Lord's commitment to and for us was full-time and complete... can ours be any less than that?

-Pastor Hildebrandt



LWML met on Jan. 11th. Thanks to all who attended!

- **Regina Kressenberg** is planning a **mission trip** this Spring. We voted to give her a \$50.00 gift to help with expenses. Please consider adding to this. There are quilts made by Regina in the narthex, selling for \$75.00 if you would like to help in this way.

• **SOUP- er BOWL FEBRUARY**



We're collecting food for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank:

- Boxes of single serving mac & cheese
- Jars of peanut butter
- Canned meats
- Canned fruits and veggies
- Canned ready-to-eat meals with easy open tabs

Food can be placed in the barrels by the church office. Questions? Contact Donna Flippin or church office.

- Keep collecting supplies for the **Hygiene Kits**; we'll assemble them on **Apr. 21 at noon**.
- **Dec. 12, 2020** has been set for our annual **Christmas Brunch**. We'll be collecting new and gently used TOYS for Northside Neighborhood House - start looking for sales!

LWML National Day of Prayer

"Living in Love, Bearing Fruit"

Sunday, Feb. 16th, 2:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church

Check out the January edition of the **LWML District newsletter** at: midsouthlwml.org



QUILTING
Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall
9:30-11:30 A.M.
Please join us!

February At a Glance...

- Feb. 8/9th: Regina Kressenberg speaks on mission trip to Kampala Uganda
- Feb. 10th: Elders' Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 11th: Church Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 16th: LWML Prayer Service, 2:30 p.m. @ FLC
- Feb. 26th: Packing Snack Packs, 4 p.m. and Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

If you haven't yet looked at your calendar for February, this is your official notice that Lent begins on the **26th**. Our



Ash Wednesday

observance (with ashes, purple paraments, Holy Communion and the first Lenten hymns of this penitential season) will get underway at **7:00 p.m.** that evening. Plan now to join your brothers and sisters at Cross of Christ and from the neighborhood as we begin our journey to the cross with our Lord and Savior.

-Pastor Hildebrandt

***Lenten suppers begin March 4th @ 6 p.m.**

Regina Kressenberg

will be visiting to share about her **upcoming mission trip**



adventure on Feb. 9th. Regina is a former member of Cross of Christ and counselor for many area Lutheran churches. She has been accepted as an African Inland Missionary and will be headed overseas to Kampala Uganda where she will serve as a counselor at the Tumaini Counseling Center along with other counselors and doctors. Come hear Regina speak more on her African adventure and on how God is using her. She will be speaking briefly after this Saturday's service & Sunday during the Adult Bible class. In leu of purchasing a quilt (see LWML section), any monetary gift/donation can be given in support towards Regina's upcoming trip. Stop by the church for a handout or call the church office and a handout will be sent to you with further details on how to specifically help financially. In addition, Regina needs our prayer support prior and during her upcoming adventure to Uganda.

BCA Dates to Remember:



- Feb. 14 – Doughnuts with Dad
- Feb. 17 – Closed for Presidents Day
- Feb. 25 – Prospective Student Day for Infants – 8th grade, 4:00 p.m.

Ringer Needed!



Dear friends at Cross of Christ, Due to a job change, one of the members of the bell choir has had to drop out and his spot needs to be filled.

We have some great music planned for Lent and Easter, but it won't happen with a ringer missing in the back row.

I am happy to train anyone one-on-one, outside of rehearsal, for as many weeks as needed, and the music can be marked to show when to ring each bell. No music skills or prior experience is needed.

We rehearse on Sunday evenings at 7:00.

Please call me if you have any questions, or would like to consider this enjoyable opportunity to praise God through music. –Judy Zehnder (423) 875-3529

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
 - Snack size Ziploc bags
 - Sandwich size Ziploc bags
 - Gallon size Ziploc bags
- *Please no travel size mouthwash*

Hygiene kits are delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen for distribution to our homeless.

Snack Packs for Rivermont Elementary



On **Feb. 26th at 4:00 p.m** we will be packing student Snack Packs for our neighbors at Rivermont Elementary. These snack packs provide at least one meal for students over the weekend in disadvantaged homes. Packing takes less than an hour! Future packing dates are **March 25th** and **April 29th**.

Helping the Homeless

Please consider donating your used clothing towards the homeless. **Winter items** (jackets, hats, gloves...) along with **all other articles of clothing** are needed in all sizes

EXCEPT items for babies or toddlers.

Other possible donations needed are **blankets & pillows, sleeping bags, vinyl tarps, and furniture and household items in GOOD condition.**

Items can be left under the table by the church office where they will be picked up and distributed to those in need. Thank you for your help!

Thank You...

Over New Year's break, we had a couple of 'angels of wood and all things buildable' stop by and fix the squeaks that had developed in the choir loft, the top landing to the loft, on the stairs to the loft and the landing at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the choir loft. They were also able to fix the choir loft door so it doesn't bind up when opened, which eliminated the squeaks there also. THANK YOU to Arlene and Taylor Vickers for their time and talent in taking care of these problems. We are blessed!



Thank you to everyone who turned out on Friday, January 17th, to help clean, dust and organize the contents of Mrs. Hamilton's Sunday School classroom.

Many helping hands made quick work of the multitude of books and toys that needed cleaned and dusted. Sometime in February, we will be putting out another call for volunteers, as we complete the necessary painting, cleaning and dusting to put the Nursery back into service. Watch for updates in the weekly bulletins or emails.

2020 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES & 2019 TAX STATEMENTS Available

Check the pew in the Narthex if you haven't picked them up, as we cannot mail out the offering envelope boxes. Thank you!





CALLING ALL CRITTERS!

A local church's ongoing Critter Ministry is requesting the gathering of used stuffed animals of all sizes that are in good to excellent shape. This ministry gives "critters" to those alone in a hospital, homeless for whatever reason, adults alone at home, those in rehab, undergoing radiation/chemo, or just alone a lot. It is a "critter" that is warm to hug when there is no one else to hug and you feel down. Donations can be placed in a box or bag and brought to church under the table by the church office where they will be transported to the Critters Ministry.

BIBLES & BREWS

This Young Adult Bible Study meets **every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.** at the **Terminal Brewhouse** for Christian fellowship, encouragement in the Word of God, and a good brew! **We welcome young adults from across the city!** If you are interested or know of a young adult who would enjoy this time of fellowship, follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates on the group.

Questions? Nyssa Hunt (991-5891) or Pastor

2020 Altar Flowers

The flower chart is up on the bulletin board for you to purchase flowers for the altar. Cost is \$25 per Sunday. Please sign your name and fill out the "in memory of" or "in honor of" line. Money can be placed in your designated offering envelope, or mark on your check memo "flower fund". Contact Sherry Reed with any questions.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

****February 20th****

Articles, reports, info & photos need to please be emailed to Rachel Schlie no later than the 20th of each month. Thank you!

rachel.schlie@outlook.com

Church Website & Facebook Page

Updates/info can be emailed to:

secretary@cocluth.com and changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!



January/February birthday gals present at the birthday lunch, January 25th, at Formosa, were (L-R) Jamie Mofsky, Ronnie Smits (she can't be 90!) and Eunice Timm. 22 women came to celebrate the birthdays and the Chinese New Year. Many laughs were had! Please consider joining us next time!

(photo credit: Barbara Conn)



Waiting for the others to arrive are (L-R) John Stehr, Dennis Conn and Ray Veldman. Moe's Southwest Grill was host to the guys' group that gathered at the same time. They had a small group of six but good fellowship and an enjoyable lunch was had by all.

(photo credit: Brad Mofsky)



Our church's serving crew on January 22nd at Chattanooga Community Kitchen. They served 248 homeless people! (L-R) Maria Rabbio, Tim Dupuis, Mary Keel, Arlene Vickers, Tony Pessini and Donna Flippin. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ!

(photo credit: Arlene Vickers)



“In the Spotlight” features a condensed shout-out about a different LCMS resource each month)

ISSUES ETC.

“Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused Talk Radio”

About Them

Issues Etc. is “talk radio for the thinking Christian”. Hosted by LCMS pastor Todd Wilken, the ten-hour syndicated radio talk show and podcast features expert guests and expansive topics while extolling Christ.

Issues Etc. holds a two-fold mission. First, to defend and teach the truths rediscovered at the Lutheran Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture and Christ alone. Second, to challenge today’s relativistic culture with its unbiblical and illogical ideologies.

Guests include LCMS pastors, seminary and university professors. Current events, church history and doctrinal topics are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to available thought-provoking listening.

Resources for You

- **Archives:** Tune in live or listen to past, on-demand discussions about countless issues. Topics range from looking ahead and discussing the upcoming Sunday’s Scripture readings to Biblical views on current cultural issues. Podcast lengths range from roughly 25 min. to an hour. They serve as a great discussion starter between your spouse, children or friends; also useful during extended driving time
- **Sacred Music 24/7:** Sacred music which follows the Church Year is available for listening all day, every day

Information in this article and resources can be found on the official website for Issues Etc.at: Issuesetc.org

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 Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



February Worship Assistants

ALTAR GUILD

Dennis & Barbara Conn

ACOLYTES, Sunday, 9 a.m.

- 2nd: Zachary Land
- 9th: Nathan Pugh
- 16th: Zachary Land
- 23rd: Chloe Doebler & Zoe Riethmeier

ELDERS

Saturday, 6:00 0.m.

Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Mike Witherby & Bob Timm

GREETERS, Saturday, 6 p.m.

- 1st: Joel & Rhonda Duncan
- 8th: Nancy Ashby & Rose Roelofs
- 15th: Brad & Jamie Mofsky
- 22nd: Mark & Donna Wachholz
- 29th: Scott Brewster

GREETERS, Sunday, 9 a.m.

- 2nd: John & Patricia Stehr
- 9th: Eloise Bartlett
- 16th: Bob & Eunice Timm
- 23rd: Carmen Autry

READERS

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (Saturday) | (Sunday) |
| 1 st : Rhonda Duncan | 2 nd : John Stehr |
| 8 th : Sylvia Hildebrandt | 9 th : Natalie Doebler |
| 15 th : Brad Mofsky | 16 th : John & Jane Rudat |
| 22 nd : Mark Wachholz | 23 rd : Carmen Autry |
| 29 th : Lorilynn Baier | |

USHERS

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Scott Brewster

Sunday, 9 a.m.

David Murray, Dennis & Barbara Conn