

# 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

**FEBRUARY**

**2021**



## 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.



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
3204 Hixson Pike  
Chattanooga, TN 37415  
✠ Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

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## MORE THAN DOING WITHOUT

Yes, as hard as it may be to believe this fact: the Lenten season begins in just two (2) weeks! The impact of this means that from Ash Wednesday, on February 17<sup>th</sup>, through Good Friday, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, hundreds of millions of Christians around the globe will be reflecting on the suffering and death of our Savior and Lord.

Certainly, it is a very special time for us; and even though we celebrate the cycle each year, the Holy Spirit urges us to never tire of our meditation and focus on Christ's Passion. For many according to tradition, Lent is a time to "give up something" (maybe red meat, desserts, celebrations, etc.) as a vivid reminder of all that our Savior gave up for us. Unfortunately, those denials may last no longer than New Year's resolutions. So I'm asking you, for Lent in 2021, to try adding something to your daily and weekly regimen.

What about setting a goal to worship in God's House every week over the next month-and-a-half? (The number of extra Lent and Holy Week services will be determined at next week's Elders' Meeting.) What about setting a goal for yourself of bringing a friend or neighbor with you for a Sunday or special mid-week service? What about using your Lenten devotional booklet in addition to your regular devotion... maybe one in the morning and the other at night? What about putting aside a dollar or two in a jar, maybe in the middle of your dinner table, as a daily reminder of all the "good things" with which our Heavenly Father fills our lives week-by-week?

Obviously, the list of things you and I might be doing in response to God's love for us could go on and on, but what is most important is that you establish your own list of special things for Lent. Begin your list today, and from now until Ash Wednesday ask the Holy Spirit to help you be as faithful in following through on your resolve as Jesus was in fulfilling everything necessary for our salvation.

May Almighty God bless us and empower you and me for this joyful and rewarding task!

~ Pastor Hildebrandt

# From the Elders

As we continue to deal with Covid-19 there seems to be a little bit of hope starting to show up. We have vaccines and we are starting to see a slight drop in the numbers. If we stay the course and persevere, with God's help we'll get past this. As the elders meet this month our agenda will include how to get us safely through this Lenten and Easter season. We need to consider Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. After we conclude that meeting a calendar will be made for everyone to post at home. Please feel free to share your thoughts or concerns with us.

Until next time, stay safe.

Bob Timm

Elders' Chairman (423-400-7579)



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another."**

—Thomas Merton



### February At a Glance...

- Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - Elders' Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> - Church Council Meeting, 5 p.m. via ZOOM
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for March/April Newsletter
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG.

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
6 p.m. (via ZOOM mtg.)

The Board of Directors will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., via ZOOM. Please register through the ZOOM link which was sent out on February 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday). You will need to register in order to receive the necessary papers needed for the meeting. At each meeting your attendance and input are needed, as the congregation has elected you to your vital position on the Board of Directors. Should you have anything to add to the agenda, please contact Mark Burns or the church office, no later than noon on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## VOTERS'



Mark your calendars for the Quarterly Voters' meeting. It will be held Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Watch for a registration email the beginning of March.

We continue to invite all members to attend these Quarterly Voters' Meetings and hearing what is happening behind the scenes and also to participate in making decisions for Cross of Christ's future. We value each and every one of your opinions and would like to hear your input, and when needed, your vote.

If you have something you would like brought up at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, please contact Mark Burns (734-223-0503) or the church office, no later than Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> by noon, in order to get it on the meeting agenda.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend. Not a registered voting member yet? No problem, it's quite easy! Please contact Lorilynn for more information. Thank you.

## Ash Wednesday

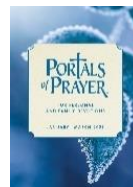
If you haven't yet looked at your calendar for February, this is your official notice that Lent begins on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our Ash Wednesday observance will "NOT" include the distribution of ashes or Holy Communion this year, due to the pandemic. Purple paraments 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 from our congregation and from the neighborhood, as we begin our journey to the cross with our Lord and Savior.

(Attendance registration for the service will be required.)

~ Pastor Hildebrandt



### PORTALS OF PRAYER DEVOTION BOOKS

\*\* JANUARY-MARCH \*\*

We still have some Portals of Prayer devotion books available in the Narthex on Saturday & Sunday. During the week, stop by the office and Lorilynn will hand one out to you through the door or call and let her know you would like one mailed to you.

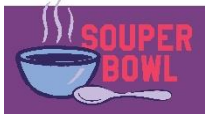
**"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"**

—Corrie ten Boom



## News And Headlines

- Until at least May, both the Chattanooga Zone and our Cross of Christ LWML will not be having any formal meetings & gatherings (this also includes the annual Spring Rally).
- Your annual LWML contribution to our CoC Society remains at \$15.00. Please drop your contribution into the LWML box or place in the offering plate. Checks need to be made out as payable to “LWML”. This annual contribution makes it possible to continue our support to our seminary students and others we assist year-around.
- Mites can be deposited into the LWML boxes anytime of the month (Narthex or office hallway).
- **IT’S “SOUPER BOWL” FEBRUARY!!**  
Our LWML is hosting the Annual “CoC CAN Give”! We’re collecting canned food for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank (CAFB)...
  - Cans of Hearty Soup
  - Canned Meats
  - Canned Fruits and Veggies
  - Canned Ready-to-Eat Meals



(all with easy open tabs on cans, if possible)

Please place the cans in the barrels located in both the Narthex and across from the church office or feel free to sit the bags in front of the collection cans.

**2021 Goal = 829 Cans**

**(As of the date of this newsletter, 107 cans received.)**

- Please keep collecting supplies for the **Hygiene Kits** we send to Chattanooga Community Kitchen, as our homeless community needs our donations year around, PLUS the number of homeless have increased due to the pandemic. If you need a miniature list of items we collect (to put in your wallet) pick one up on the table by the church office.
- For more news on what’s going on within the LWML organization, check out the **LWML Mid-South District website** at: [midsouthlwml.org](http://midsouthlwml.org)



**QUILTING**  
**Tuesday Mornings**  
**in Fellowship Hall**  
**9:30-11:30 A.M.**

**All are welcome to join us!**  
**(Men or Women)**



# Think Of Ways you can SERVE

## Cross of Christ!!

**Hello Cross of Christ Families!** We hope you are staying well this year! The COC Education Committee is requesting your help and input again. Please let us know how you feel we can serve you and your family best!

In light of this current pandemic, are you comfortable having your kids attend Sunday School in person should the Elders approve it? When this happens, do you know anyone, or are you or your spouse willing to teach Sunday School (preschool, grade school, or middle/high school) classes?

We currently have only one volunteer for a middle/high school ZOOM class. If you have a middle or high schooler, are you and your kids open to an all-virtual class? If so, what topics would you like to see covered?

For preschool and grade school... are you using the lessons we have provided each week for your children? The Education Committee needs volunteers to teach and also we welcome any ideas and information on how to meet your family’s needs. Please call Alison and Nathan Pugh or email us with your thoughts on the above questions, if you can help teach, or have any suggestions. Thank you!

Alison's Cell: 423-432-1991

Email: [alisonpugh78@gmail.com](mailto:alisonpugh78@gmail.com)

### Why we lament...

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up *this* much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish. “Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”





## Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN Drive 2020

2020 has been a year of challenges, but that didn't slow down our congregation ladies from stepping up to the plate! Even with several congregations/ quilters unable to meet due to COVID-19 we had another great ingathering.

At this year's Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN ingathering the Mid-South District once again had seven drop sites where we collected handmade quilts, school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, and fabric kits. Our drop sites included Christus Victor, Knoxville, TN.; Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN.; Our Savior, Nashville, TN.; Immanuel, Memphis, TN.; First, Fort Smith, AR.; Grace, Little Rock, AR.; Salem, and Springdale, AR.

At the time of this report (12/21/2020), the top three quilt producing congregations that dropped off their work at an LWR CARE-VAN ingathering site were Zion Lutheran Church, Alexander, AR (195 quilts), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gillett, AR (116 quilts), and Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, AR (110 quilts). A total of 2,025 quilts (580 were from several area ELCA congregations) were donated.

To date we had 42 congregations participate (7 ELCA), collecting over \$4,400 for shipping costs. We also collected 2,017 personal care kits, 64 fabric kits, 904 school kits, 433 baby care kits, and 85 face masks were also donated. The CARE-VAN trailers were loaded up with 621 boxes (weighing approximately 13,731 pounds!) of offerings from District congregations for Lutheran World Relief. Way to go Mid-South District!

Many of the congregations' efforts are coordinated by LWML groups and longstanding quilting groups in the congregations. They participate in this effort to share the love of Christ in a personal way. The tireless efforts of those who share their talents and the generous contributions of many make this a successful ingathering.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's annual LWR CARE-VAN drive!

— Julie Tyler, Mid-South District CARE-VAN Coordinator

### Can You Help the Homeless With Items In Your Closets or Drawers??

Please consider donating your used clothing towards the homeless. **Winter items** (jackets, hats, gloves...) along with **all other articles of clothing** are needed, any size (except no items for babies or toddlers needed).

All clothing **MUST** be clean and in good condition, 'NO' mending needed. Purses, bags, shoes, belts, etc... are also welcome. The season of clothes you bring does not matter when you donate them, as everything and anything is needed for our homeless community.

Other possible donations which are needed this time of the year are **blankets & pillows, sleeping bags, and vinyl tarps. We also take donations of furniture and household items in GOOD condition.**

Sack up or box up anything you, your spouse, or your kids have outgrown and bring it to the church. (Please be sure that the sack or box is light enough to be carried by someone like Arlene or Lorilynn!)

**Plan on doing some spring cleaning of your home?** We will also take kitchenware, wall décor, lamps, bedding, towels, anything you might use to set up a house (or that will fit into the back of Arlene's SUV! ), as we also help those who now are able to get into an apartment or rental. All items **MUST** be useable and in non-damaged condition.

Put clothing or household items in a box, bag, or basket and bring them to church. **PLEASE do not make the boxes, bags, or baskets heavy or overstuff them.** (It would be better to make 2 bags than 1 giant one.) Items can be left under the table by the church office where they will be picked up and distributed to those in need.

Arlene Vickers will get all the above to various homeless agencies with which she deals. Thank you in advance for your sharing of clothing and household items with others. **You are blessing others in a way that cannot be measured.**



Donations for the Homeless

### LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

**We continue to collect 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

**\*\*NO travel size mouthwash due to alcohol contents.\*\***

Hygiene kit items are delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen quarterly for distribution to our homeless community.

**Just A Friendly Reminder...  
If You Ever Need A Notary...**

Our church has a Commissioned Notary Public with the State of Tennessee available for you who can notarize paperwork. Call the church office (877-7447) and talk to Lorilynn Baier for details or to set up an appointment time. (Should there be an emergency, she is able to come to the hospital, your home, etc.) Add her cell phone number to your contacts should you need her after working hours (423-902-7699).



## WEEKLY RESERVATIONS CONTINUE...

As a reminder, for the foreseeable future, **PLEASE** call the church office to make reservations for Private Holy Communion on Wednesday or Saturday afternoon or if you plan to attend either worship service on Saturday or Sunday.

It is very important for the church office to receive your call, especially for Holy Communion, as there are only so many open slots for communion (scheduled for every 20 minutes). In addition, we can only accommodate so many people per worship service (due to the 6 ft. social distancing guidelines). At this time we are limited to 45 people per service.

Making your reservations helps the church office to complete the lists needed each weekend for Pastor and the Ushers. **Since COVID began, we now have a new way of keeping attendance for the Synod. When you call in, you are helping Lorilynn to complete the necessary paperwork needed.** (You can also think of it as our way of contact tracing, should someone come down with COVID within the church.)

The guidelines below apply for making your reservations for Holy Communion and our worship services by the noted day and time each week.

- Wednesday** Holy Communion (by 11am, Wednesday)
- Saturday** Holy Communion (by Noon on Thursday)
- Saturday** evening worship (6pm) - (by Noon on Thursday)
- Sunday** morning worship (9am) - (by Noon on Thursday)

Should you desire Private Holy Communion at a time different than noted above, please call the church office and speak to Pastor or Lorilynn. *(Please be aware... if you accidentally forget to call in and make your reservation, you are still welcome to attend either service. Keep in mind that the Saturday service usually has a few more open seats than Sunday.)*

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**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
February 2021**

**"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).**

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.



## Time, Talents & Treasure



### Facebook Pages

Updates & information to be posted to the above can be emailed to:

[secretary@cocluth.com](mailto:secretary@cocluth.com)

Changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!



**WE HAVE...**  
**COFFEE (regular & decaf)**  
**TEA (regular & decaf)**  
**CHOCOLATE CHIPS...**

Did you know that our church is part of fair-trade coffee thru Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Equal Exchange! The money goes straight to the farmers, instead of all the in-between processors. We order the products, you buy them, and the process repeats itself. **Call the office (877-7447) and place your order** for coffee, tea, or a bag of chocolate chips. Different types of 'Coffee' (\$8.00) are available, along with delicious bags of 'Chocolate Chips' (\$3.50) ...

**++Equal Exchange (red bags):**

- \*Congo Full City Roast Coffee - Whole Bean;
- \*French Vanilla - Ground;
- \*Love Buzz - Whole Bean (no Ground available at this time);
- \*Mind, Body, Soul - Ground;
- \*Toffee Carmel - Ground;
- \*Organic Unwind Decaf Full City Road Coffee - K-Cups (12 per box)

**++Lutheran World Relief (brownish tan bags, all ground):**

- \*Dark Roast: Molasses/Earthy/Spice
- \*Medium Roast: Citrus/Carmel/Nougat
- \*Decaf: Spice/Syrupy/Candied Apple

**Buying these products from us, means that you'll be contributing to an even greater cause and giving hope to farmers worldwide with the Lord's help!**

Call Lorilynn to place your order and let her know which day you will pick it up. Payment will need to be in cash or check form and payable at the time of pickup (exact cash please). She'll put it out in the breezeway for you to pick up at the time and day you desire.

*(Sorry, we are out of Olive Oil and Tea at this time.)*



**HEALTH  
 REMINDER  
 RE: COVID-19**

Cross of Christ has been blessed with no COVID cases from within the church walls. We are hoping to continue this trend and ask for your help:

**Within the last 48 hours of walking into the church for ANY service or meeting, please ask yourself these FIVE (5) questions:**

- 1) Have you been in close contact with... someone being tested for COVID and waiting for the results -or- someone who tested positive (a confirmed case) for COVID-19? Have you traveled to a hot spot of COVID-19?
- 2) Have you had a recent loss of taste or smell?

- 3) Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or any symptoms of COVID-19?
- 4) Have you had a fever within the last 48 hours? If so, you MUST be fever free for 48 hours before coming back into the church.
- 5) Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours, or felt sick or not like yourself?

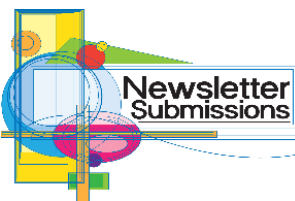
**If you answered YES to any of the above questions, we ask that you please REMAIN AT HOME and contact your physician.**

We will continue with the guidelines that everyone MUST wear a face mask when coming into the church or administration building, while attending Private Holy Communion, worship services, or attending any gathering held on the church premises, for the foreseeable future. (Even our quilters are wearing them the whole time they are putting together quilts, as is our organist and our A/V team!) **Please make sure that the mask covers your whole nose, mouth, and chin area at all times.**

Remember to tell yourself... **I AM WEARING A MASK NOT BECAUSE I AM ILL, BUT BECAUSE I CARE FOR YOU 'AND' FOR ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE DAILY AND WORKING LONG HOURS!** The last thing we want is a resurgence of this silent killer.

Please know that the Elders, Trustees, and church staff are doing everything they can for the health, safety and well-being of our members and your families. We will continue to evaluate further re-opening plans, taking into consideration the current impact of the virus in our community, and the future steps which can be taken for our church to continue to move forward in a safe manner.

**Please email the church office with any information or pictures for the newsletter at: [church@cocluth.com](mailto:church@cocluth.com)**



Deadline for the  
 March/April  
 Newsletter  
**FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**FACE MASKS AVAILABLE!**  
**CHILDREN'S, WOMEN'S, AND MEN'S SIZES...**  
**Continue to be available for your purchase!**

The mask box is on the bench in the Narthex and during the week, on the table by the church office. The cost is \$1.00 per mask. Each large bag is labeled with the type of masks within the bag (men, women, and two (2) sizes for children...ages 3-6 yrs. and ages 7-12 yrs. Please **do not open** the individual bags (inside the large bag) **or try them on**, unless you are buying that particular mask. (The cost is at least \$1.00 per mask, but it is greatly appreciated if you throw in a little more... pay it forward--to help cover basic costs of the masks.) From Monday thru Friday, the mask box is on the table by the church office.





The flower chart for 2021 is now posted on the bulletin board for you to purchase flowers for the altar. Cost remains at \$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 Flower Offering Envelope or mark on your check memo "flower fund". (If you aren't attending church at this time and would like a specific weekend, call Lorilynn and she will write your name & info. on the 2021 Flower Chart.) Contact Sherry Reed with any questions.



**birthday bunch!**

We have all GREATLY missed getting together to chat and enjoy food and fellowship this last year (yes, it's been that long!). The months have passed by, some more slowly than another, but the good thing is that our friends are still out there. Every woman in our church is part of the "birthday bunch".

Pick up the phone and chat with someone who you have missed, not seen lately, or have not spoken to in a long time. Or be old school and send them a card or note (it will help the postal service!) Send them an email. Knit them a sweater! Send up a smoke signal! We will all get through this together! If you are having a tough time with loneliness, being apart from others, just need someone to talk to, etc... call someone. Don't be too proud to not share with someone you just need to hear a voice or talk. That is what being Sisters in Christ means... to share the good times and the tough/rough times. We can help each other through the day ahead!

**MEN... this goes for you too!** You were also used to sharing time and bonding together at your lunches while the ladies met. Check on your buddy, your friend, your pal! Men are just as susceptible to loneliness and depression as women, except they usually put up the 'tough guy' front. As the saying goes... "Real Guys Wear Pink", so a new saying should be "Real Guys Have Feelings To Share". Pick up the phone and chat with someone you haven't seen or heard from in some time. You may be the one to make a difference in his life that day.



**WOMEN... JOIN US!!** The Women's JOY Class is doing a Bible study entitled "Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman" written by Elizabeth Ahlman. All women and their friends are invited to join us in this study. At this time, our class is meeting on Zoom. Class time is 11:15am-12:30pm on Sunday mornings. If you would like to attend the class please call Sylvia Hildebrandt. Please feel free to drop in and join us! (Sylvia 227-4784 or [HTexasNatives@gmail.com](mailto:HTexasNatives@gmail.com))



**IF YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER YOU NOW HAVE TWO (2) ACTION TEAM CARDS THAT CAN BE USED IN 2021.**

**Thrivent will provide the tools and resources to bring your passion to life.**

Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: "Who can I help and how?" Can you help one of our ongoing volunteer ministries? Have an idea for a fundraiser, service activity or educational event for our church or community? Now is the time to be thinking of how you would like to use your 2021 Thrivent Action Team cards.

**The Community Impact Card with funds of \$250.00 can kick-start any project/event.** The church office often has a list of suggestions or ideas that can help benefit the community. Action Team cards need to be applied for and approved, before a project is started. You need at least two (2) people to make a team. **Thrivent wants you to use their money to help our community. Don't leave your \$250-\$500 unused on December 31st (or wait until November to start planning!)** If you have any questions about getting a card, using it, etc. contact Bob or Eunice Timm, Pastor or Lorilynn.

**Positive change begins with your generosity.**



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** will continue to be held in the Sanctuary. At this time, we continue to study the Sunday readings. **Please bring your Bible with you**, as due to the Pandemic all Bibles have been removed from the Sanctuary. There will be no refreshments offered, nor any food or drink allowed in the Sanctuary. (For those who wish to remain for Bible Class immediately following the Sunday worship service, you can remain in your pew seats following the service. Please feel free to use the restroom or stand up and stretch before we begin.)



**ALWAYS CHOOSE LOVE**

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

--Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*



**The Armor of God  
Ephesians 6:10-18, NIV**

*10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*



"Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."  
—Dale Carnegie

**MISSING  
YOUR  
CROSS OF  
CHRIST FAMILY?**

**Feeling isolated? Eating too much and not exercising enough?**  
**Talking to the walls? Read all your books?**  
**Tired of watching TV?**  
**SHOULD WE GO ON?**

**Join Us For The First 2021  
ZOOM CoC Social Hour!!**

**Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-6:00 PM (EST)**

**(Hosted by Joni Rennhack and Jane Rudat)**

**ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR...**

*Now here's something to bring us some cheer,  
As we all look forward to a brand-new year!  
Join us to share an hour of time,  
It could be just to give us a rhyme!  
With friends in person and not spaced apart,  
ZOOM works for now, and it warms the heart,  
To see your faces and visit from home,  
And that is the end of this silly poem.*

**February's Icebreaker Topic:**

**Share the best restaurant you've ever eaten at and why.**

Join us for our "bi-monthly" gatherings when we can actually put eyes on each other again, share what's been happening in our lives, check out each other's hair length and color, and **see your smile, without a mask!**

**To be included, you will need to register by Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Lorilynn will be sending out an email with the ZOOM registration link on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch your email! All adult members are invited to join us!! (Bring your beverage of choice.)







**ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Continue to share our Outreach Ministry with your family, neighbors, and friends! Join us online for worship each **Sunday morning at approximately noon.**

+ Our Website... **cocluth.com** (click on box 'Watch Latest Service')

+ Our Facebook page... **Facebook.com/cocluth** (scroll down on left side click 'Videos')

+ Our YouTube Channel...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Ecx5C2dk3fBiyyyorPJfg> (copy and paste this link)



**NEW QUILTS!!**

The quilters have been busy this first month. **There are some spring quilts already put together on the bench in the Narthex. More will be coming as these rotate off the bench!** If you see one you like, be sure to grab it, as when it's gone, it's gone. They are one-of-a-kind quilts! **The cost is \$50.00 per quilt.**

These quilts make wonderful wedding presents or baby gifts, or a special Valentine's Day gift for that special someone!! *(Guy's, it's next weekend!!)*



We recently received a letter of thanks...



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the 199,150 individuals we serve in Southeast TN and Northwest GA, thank you for your generous support of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank! We are pleased to report your Christmas Food Drive brought in an incredible 449 pounds. That translates to 374 meals. What an incredible way to change lives in our community!

In our 20-county region, 1 in 5 individuals and including 1 in 4 children struggle with hunger, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the generosity of your food drive, local children, families, seniors, and veterans will have the nutritious food they need.

Thank you again for joining us in the fight against hunger! Though your food drive has come to an end, we hope you will continue staying involved with us.

Abbey Markus  
Event Planner and Community Engagement Coordinator

P.S. Lorilynn told me about your "Souper Bowl" Drive! Can't wait to see how many cans you collect. Give me a call when it's over and we'll swing by to collect your donations!



**VANCO AUTHORIZATION FORMS**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to have your offerings/tithes come directly to the church from your bank. This is an easy way, plus very convenient way (especially during the pandemic), to make your gift or offering donations on a regular basis. You can schedule them electronically to come directly to the church. **Cross of Christ uses Vanco Payment Solutions. 100% of what you designate comes to the church.** (The minimal monthly fee CoC is charged is a budgeted item.)

Your gift or offering can be deducted automatically from your checking or savings account... weekly (Mondays) or monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>, for whatever amount you choose to give. Sign-up forms are on the table by the Ushers hutch. For more details or to have a sign-up form sent to you, please contact Barbara Wyatt or the church office. *(Unfortunately, we are unable to accept payments from credit cards at this time, due to the high cost to process these funds. This option will be explored at the next Board of Directors meeting.)*



**2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

Haven't picked up your 2021 envelopes?  
Driving by the church to a doctor's appt?  
To the grocery store? To work?

Please call the church office to pick up your envelopes while driving by this month. Lorilynn will put them out in the breezeway for you to stop and pickup, just let her know the day and time. We are not able to mail out the offering envelope boxes. Thank you!



**REMINDER... Cross of Christ has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the hallway on the main floor, located directly across from the lift.**





## amazon smile "Amazon Smile - Amazon Gives"

Have you been ordering more items or gifts online due to the Pandemic? Ordering birthday gifts? Thinking about Easter? Wedding gifts?

Did you know that 0.05% of your order can be given to a church, parochial school, or any of the many listed charities on the Amazon Smile website? And this % applies when you order anything, at any time, year-around!

Plus... Did you know that there is no extra charge to you when you place an order? It's extremely easy! Shop at smile.amazon.com and they'll donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization—**no fees, no extra cost. You shop. Amazon gives!**

**AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know!** Same products, same prices, same service. The only thing different is your purchases generate a donation to the charity of your choice. Register through Amazon Smile, pick your charity, place your order as usual, and 0.05% of your order will be bookmarked for the charity of your choice. **(As a side note... the % given to charity goes up around the months of November and December.)**

Support your favorite charitable organization (there are many to choose from the listing)! **Start shopping at smile.amazon.com It really is that simple!!**

1. Type in **smile.amazon.com**
2. Create a password and any necessary info. asked, such as picking your favorite charity.
3. When the AmazonSmile dashboard comes up, you click on AmazonSmile (right under the search bar) and see the charity that you picked. You can even change the charity right there.

**(HINT:** Be sure to double check the city and state, as when you type in Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, there are many states which have a church of the same name. Locate the correct city and state.)

4. THEN... Order away!!



A Daily Prayer...

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RECEIVES

**\*\* THE CRYSTAL THIMBLE AWARD \*\***

The Cross of Christ Mission Quilters are celebrating with their sisters in faith all over the United States. An award from the secular community has come their way. This may not seem like a big deal to those outside of the quilting world, but it is!

The Quilters' Hall of Fame, located in the Marie Webster House and Museum in Marion, Indiana, was established in 1979 to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the world of quilting.

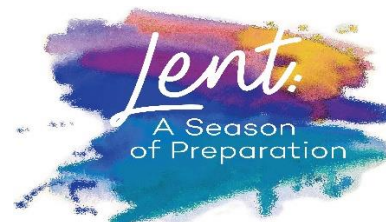
Once a year, an individual honoree is chosen and celebrated at the site of this historic home. **In 2021, for the first time, a charity group will be honored as well.**

**The group they have chosen to be the first recipient of the Crystal Thimble Award for its outstanding contribution is the Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilters.**

Words from the Hall of Fame announcement: "This award is to recognize not-for-profit organizations that have had a significant impact in the world of quilt making. In 2021 we will present the award to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Mission Quilts for their impact in the world of quilting. In the days and weeks after a disaster, LWR is on the ground helping to meet people's immediate needs. And in the months and years following, they are dedicated to working to ensure communities can rebuild better and stronger than before.

A major part of the help LWR provides is their Mission Quilts. These quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. From LWR's first quilts in 1945, given to families in war-torn Europe, to today's annual average world distribution of 300,000 quilts, it's clear why the Lutheran World Relief has been chosen for the Crystal Thimble Award in 2021."

A small, but faithful group of women at Cross of Christ, have dedicated themselves for years to meeting every Tuesday (9:30-11:30 a.m.) and make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Although their intent is not recognition, it is energizing to be acknowledged for participation in this respected and accomplished group. New quilters/helpers are always welcome to show up on a Tuesday morning! Can't make it every week? No problem, just come when you are able! **If you can tie a knot, you can quilt!** For more information, feel free to contact Eunice Timm 423-227-1127.



**NEWS FROM Regina Kressenberg**

**February 3, 2021**

Hi All,

I have arrived in Kenya and Tumaini Nairobi for my temporary stay. I just finished Africa based orientation and will start a Tumaini staff retreat on Thursday, Feb. 4. As part of the retreat, we will attend Nairobi National park and view the animals there. Pray for continued good health and adjustment to culture.



Hope all is well with you all. Love Regina

*(Regina left on January 8<sup>th</sup> to fly to Amsterdam for the first leg of her trip to Uganda. She was so excited to be finally heading out, after COVID delayed the trip in July 2020. We continue to ask God to be with her, protect her, and keep her safe in her travels during the next year, as she professes God's love and grace to others. Regina was a former member of Cross of Christ and was a spiritual counselor for many area Lutheran churches. She will now be serving as a counselor at the Tumaini Counseling Center along with other counselors and doctors.)*



**THE PARABLE OF THE LOST RING**

Only three years after Paula and Joe Walter married, her wedding ring was lost as she played catch with their son. Naturally, she was heartbroken. Over the years, whenever family and friends gathered in the back yard, she urged everyone to look for the ring — but to no avail. Because the yard borders on woods, Paula feared the ring had flown into the trees, never to be seen again.

But just before the couple's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, landscapers hired to do work in the yard brought her a surprise: They'd found the ring — right where Paula had been playing with her child so long ago! Like the woman in Jesus' parable who finally found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10), Paula rejoiced. God too searches until every person who has strayed or been flung away from the faith is found.

Sometimes the place we rediscover faith is right where we've looked before. What makes the difference? A different person helping us search? Light shining in a different way? We may never know. We simply rejoice — and so does God.

—Heidi Mann



**Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Lutheran Hour Ministries began at the grassroots level as the Lutheran Laymen's League, a group of 12 laypeople who came together to support the church in word and deed. What began with 12 has become a movement of tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters around the globe. In 1930, "There is a God" were the first words spoken on The Lutheran Hour® radio program broadcast over the airwaves to thousands of listeners. Today the Gospel message reaches over 125 million people on a weekly basis through ministry efforts such as Bible Correspondence Courses, Outreach Training, Bible Studies, Daily Devotions and, of course, The Lutheran Hour.

The first Ministry Center opened its doors in the Philippines in 1940; today they are able to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to over 50 countries through its ministry centers on 6 continents. With the unique missionary model of employing only indigenous staff, Lutheran Hour Ministries is able to work within the language and culture to communicate the Gospel in the context of the local region. For over 100 years, God has used Lutheran Hour Ministries to bring the changeless Christ to a changing world. The communication methods have shifted, but the message has remained the same.

In 1992, due to the popularity of **The Lutheran Hour** radio program, the International Lutheran Laymen's League chose Lutheran Hour Ministries as the overall identity for its media outreach programs. Based in St. Louis, Missouri, Lutheran Hour Ministries continues to explore new media and to expand its use of others to serve congregations as a partner in God's mission.

Today, through ministry programs such as **The Lutheran Hour, International Ministries, Men's NetWork, LHM Learn**, and others; Lutheran Hour Ministries is calling our communities, our country, and our world back to God. Lutheran Hour Ministries is ready to meet the challenges of a post-Christian culture by bringing a message of rescue, restoration, and renewal in Jesus Christ to millions of people who desperately need to hear it.

Lutheran Hour Ministries looks forward to a bright future as remarkable media breakthroughs open new doors to sharing the Gospel with more people around the world who long for answers, love, and meaning in their lives. LHM will be ready to respond in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*.

Let the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) know if you have questions or need help accessing this information! Or feel free to contact me, Larry Zehnder, your CoC LHM Representative.

| The Lutheran Hour |                 |       |      |     |          |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|------|-----|----------|
| Station           | City, State     | Freq  | Band | Day | Time     |
| WAAK              | Ringgold, GA    | 94.7  | FM   | Sun | 9:00 AM  |
| WBLJ              | Dalton, GA      | 1230  | AM   | Sun | 9:30 AM  |
| WLMR              | Chattanooga, TN | 103.3 | FM   | Sun | 11:00 AM |
| WLMR              | Chattanooga, TN | 1450  | AM   | Sun | 11:00 AM |





## Have You Chosen "Your" 2021 Word Yet?

Here it is, another new year, but this one feels different than ever before. The things that we went through together in 2020 have changed us, shaped us, challenged us, broken us, healed us, and transformed us into totally new people than we were at the end of 2019. 2020 was the year of life change – big and small.

So when we ask ourselves, "What are you going to do differently in 2021?", we're not just talking New Year's resolutions, which usually end up forgotten and replaced with discouragement and a feeling of failure. We are talking life changes.

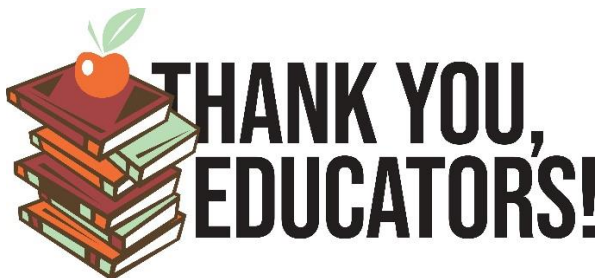
What if you replaced your resolutions with truth from God's Word? What if you chose to focus on this one theme all year, helping you filter decisions, calm emotions, and face each day with resolve? God's Word serves as a reminder of His truth in your life and inspires you to live your faith each and every day. Find a word for yourself, share it, post it, etc. Why not!

What will you choose for your Word of the Year? Who is God calling you to be in 2021? Choose a word to embrace for the year! A person I know chose "Appreciate" to embrace for 2020. In retrospect, how appropriate to recognize all we still had to be appreciative for in 2020.

What will be "Your Word" for 2021? How will it impact your perspective this year? Figure out what your word will be, then take a blank piece of paper and write the word on it. Color it, bold it, bubble art with markers, but most of all hang "Your Word of the Year" somewhere where you will see it daily.



In January we had a couple of "angels of wood and all things buildable" stop by and fix the wooden doors between the church and the administration building. THANK YOU to Arlene Vickers and her talented son Taylor, for their time and talent in taking care of the problems. We are blessed by the talents they shared!



### CELEBRATING LOVE

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovía Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio's death last October, they were reportedly the world's oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: "Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina's beauty, her conversation, and her big heart." Meanwhile, she found in him "a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity + mutual respect," as well as patience, compassion, and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, often read at weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV)





# FEBRUARY

# 2021

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Monday 1                                                                            | Tuesday 2                                                                     | Wednesday 3                                                                                                                                                         | Thursday 4                                                                                                 | Friday 5               | Saturday 6                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 6:30 pm Scouts                                                                      | <b>GROUNDHOG DAY</b><br>9:30 am Quilters                                      | <b>11 am Deadline for Wednesday Private Holy Communion Afternoon</b><br>1-3 pm Private Holy Communion<br>4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Adult Choir | <b>NOON Deadline for Saturday Private Holy Communion and Weekend Worship Services</b><br>6:30 pm Crossways |                        | 1-5 pm Private Holy Communion<br>6 pm Worship |
| Sunday 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Monday 8                                                                            | Tuesday 9                                                                     | Wednesday 10                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday 11                                                                                                | Friday 12              | Saturday 13                                   |
| 9 am Worship, with Adult Confirmation<br>10:15 am Adult Bible Study<br>11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study<br>1:30 pm Hand Bell Choir<br>(NOTE CHANGE IN TIME)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 6:30 pm Scouts<br>7 pm Elders' Mtg.                                                 | 9:30 am Quilters<br>6 pm Board of Directors Mtg. (via ZOOM)                   | <b>11 am Deadline for Wednesday Private Holy Communion Afternoon</b><br>1-3 pm Private Holy Communion<br>4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Adult Choir | <b>NOON Deadline for Saturday Private Holy Communion and Weekend Worship Services</b><br>6:30 pm Crossways |                        | 1-5 pm Private Holy Communion<br>6 pm Worship |
| Sunday 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Monday 15                                                                           | Tuesday 16                                                                    | Wednesday 17                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday 18                                                                                                | Friday 19              | Saturday 20                                   |
| <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b><br>9 am Worship<br>10:15 am Adult Bible Study<br>11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study<br>7 pm Hand Bell Choir                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b><br>4 pm Deadline for Ash Wednesday Service<br>6:30 pm Scouts | 9:30 am Quilters<br><b>NOON Deadline for Wednesday Private Holy Communion</b> | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br>1-3 pm Private Holy Communion<br>"NO" Virtual Junior Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Ash<br>Wednesday Service<br>8 pm Adult Choir                | <b>NOON Deadline for Saturday Private Holy Communion and Weekend Worship Services</b><br>6:30 pm Crossways |                        | 1-5 pm Private Holy Communion<br>6 pm Worship |
| Sunday 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Monday 22                                                                           | Tuesday 23                                                                    | Wednesday 24                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday 25                                                                                                | Friday 26              | Saturday 27                                   |
| <b>LENT 1</b><br>9 am Worship<br>10:15 am Adult Bible Study<br>11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study<br>7 pm Hand Bell Choir                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | NEWSLETTER ARTICLES & PICTURES DUE FOR MARCH/APRIL<br>6:30 pm Scouts                | 9:30 am Quilters                                                              | <b>11 am Deadline for Wednesday Private Holy Communion Afternoon</b><br>1-3 pm Private Holy Communion<br>4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Adult Choir | <b>NOON Deadline for Saturday Private Holy Communion and Weekend Worship Services</b><br>6:30 pm Crossways | 5-6 pm CoC Social Hour | 1-5 pm Private Holy Communion<br>6 pm Worship |
| Sunday 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                     |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                            |                        |                                               |
| <b>LENT 2</b><br>9 am Worship<br>10:15 am Adult Bible Study<br>11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study<br>7 pm Hand Bell Choir                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (423-877-7447)</b>                               |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                            |                        |                                               |
| <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <p>Due to COVID-19, we will continue to take reservations for Wednesday and Saturday afternoon Private Holy Communion, along with reservations for both worship services held on Saturday and Sunday. <b>PLEASE NOTE: Reservations are needed for the Ash Wednesday service also. Please take note above of the change in reservations deadlines for that week.</b> Thank you for making yours!</p> </div> |                                                                                     |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                            |                        |                                               |