

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

JUNE/JULY

2020



Our Mission Statement

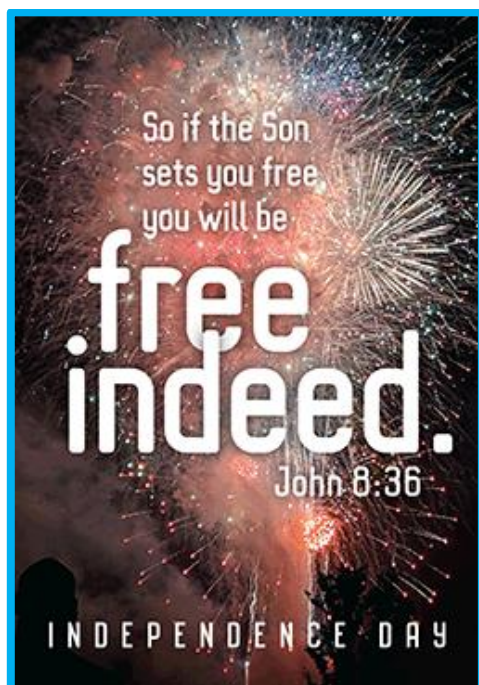
To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

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.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO CONSIDER

In the midst of the abundance of good and timely articles written in response to the impacts of the coronavirus and various recommendations on dealing with it, I have decided to go another direction with this article, based on a story told in one of my seminary classes.

Please consider these two (2) brief scenarios:

- 1) A pastor was approached by a man who expressed a desire to become a member of the congregation. He went on to say that he was a busy person and therefore "did not want to be called upon for any service project or committee work, for teaching or attending Sunday School, or for singing in the choir. I want to be spared any involvement that will take much time or effort, and also, do not expect me in worship too often." The pastor thought for a moment and then replied, "I believe you are at the wrong church... the one you want is three blocks down this street." So, the man followed the pastor's directions and soon came to an abandoned, boarded-up, overgrown, church building... in short, a dead church.
- 2) Psalm 1:3 describes another person who is "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Such an individual has put his faith in Christ and has sunk his roots deep into the promises of Almighty God; and in the assurance of those promises, he has found the power that has transformed his life. Such a person (whose life remains rooted in Jesus and whose innermost thoughts go back again and again to the sure foundation of the Holy Spirit's words) is in daily contact with a source of power that brings new life in unlimited abundance. Such a life will leaf and flower and fruit with Christian virtues that will bring sweetness and comfort and joy to the hearts and needs of others... then along with other ever-bearing trees in the Garden of God, the world can experience the goodness and bounty of His love.

SO NOW COMES THE QUESTION –

WHICH OF THESE SCENARIOS WILL BEST DESCRIBE YOU IN THE DAYS AHEAD??

Pastor Hildebrandt



MATTHEW HARRISON

JUNE 2, 2020

Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots

Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil. It is folly, which can produce only anger and hatred. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” America’s original sin of legal racism, the denial of human rights based on race, has reaped the whirlwind.

God’s Word rejects racism. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “No one is righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). All are equally created by God. All are equally accountable to God. The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ. All are equally precious to God. Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin in itself. Racism is not acceptable in the church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (cf. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37).

Unity in the church according to the Augsburg Confession is defined by Article VII: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached ... and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.” Christ and His gifts bring unity and equity in the church. Racial discrimination in or by the church is sin. Racial conflict in our nation calls every Christian to introspection. “It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). “Righteous indignation” without self-reflection and repentance is meaningless, or worse, hypocrisy.

The one who grievously and unjustly took the sacred gift of life from George Floyd — resulting in a charge of 3rd-degree murder — will, ironically, be given the very thing he denied his victim, due process of the law. Justice must be meted out according to the law. Others may be charged.

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis. We pray for the safety of all and the welfare of those who have lost property and livelihood. We pray for

the police who must stand against mayhem. We support the First Amendment rights of the peaceful protestors.

We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice. We plead to citizens and governments of this nation for communities beset by poverty, crime and injustice. We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension.

We shall pray, but we shall do even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

And we shall proclaim Christ, “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7–8).

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:1–17 ESV).

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Additional Readings from the LCMS

(If you hold down the Control Key and Enter on either of the blue highlighted topics, it will take you directly to the site.) You also can read both of the above topics on the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod website.

- [Racism and the Church — Report from LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations](#)
- [lcms.org/racism](https://www.lcms.org/racism) — A Christian response to racism

From the Congregational President

In lieu of the Quarterly Voters' meeting not being held in May, noted below are the nominations for Church Council positions. The current board members in these noted positions have served the maximum of two, two-year terms (for a total of four years).

Nominations for the 2020-2022 Term are:

President: Mark Burns
Treasurer: Nathan Schlie (eligible for two more yrs)
Christian Education: Alison & Nathan Pugh (team)
Evangelism: Larry Zehnder
Social Ministry: Dave Murray

By means of this June newsletter, we are posting a two-week notice of the above nominations. In two weeks, we will hold a Special Purpose Voters' Meeting, *via Zoom*, for the purpose of electing our new Church Council Board Members. Those elected will undertake their positions effective July 1st. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted during the *Zoom* meeting.

More details about the *Zoom Voters' Meeting* will be forthcoming. If you are a voting member and **DO NOT** have access to *Zoom* online, please let Lorilynn know ASAP, so further plans can be made for you regarding the meeting and your vote.

Thank you. ~Larry Zehnder

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Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



RESERVATIONS CONTINUE...

As a reminder, until further notice, you **MUST call the church office to make reservations for Wednesday or Saturday afternoon Private Holy Communion and also for either worship service on Saturday or Sunday. Please call no later than 4:00 p.m. every Thursday (or by 11 a.m. for Wednesday).**

It is very important for the church office to receive a personal call, as there are only so many open slots for communion (scheduled for every 20 minutes), plus we can only allow so many people per worship service (due to the 6 ft. social distancing guidelines). **Please see the related article in this newsletter regarding “Update On Re-Opening Plans at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (Phase 4, as of June 8, 2020)”**

HIGHLY ESTEEMED

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly his 3-year-old daughter ran toward him yelling, “Daddy! Daddy! That’s my daddy!” and launched into his arms.

“What a welcome,” he writes. “I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life.” Perhaps that’s how God feels when we call on His name in worship and prayer, acknowledging Him as our Heavenly Father — and honoring Him above all else.



Wide Open

Fundraiser

for

OUTREACH VIDEO MINISTRY

Since December 2019, Matt Doebler has been donating CoC the use of his camera and video equipment as we undertook an Outreach Video Ministry for our homebound members and the community. What a blessing this has been since COVID-19 has hit the nation! This ministry has been reaching hundreds of people in our congregation, community, and across many states during this time. (e.g. Maundy Thursday, 387 views; Good Friday, 252 views; and Easter Sunday 475 views!! Since Easter, we are averaging approx. 108 views.) We want and need this outreach ministry to continue moving forward.

Matt, Natalie, Jack, and Chloe will soon be moving (later this month), onto a new chapter in their lives in Saint Louis, as Matt studies to become a pastor at Concordia Seminary. And unfortunately, as Matt leaves, also goes the video equipment! We are currently in the process of ordering the equipment needed, per Matt's excellent suggestions and guidance. We also have a couple members that will be shadowing Matt for the next two weeks at worship services; learning how to setup, operate video, and put together the worship service for our online viewers.

We are therefore undertaking an Outreach Video Ministry Fundraiser, with a monetary goal of \$3,000.00. (As a side note, we had a few extra dollars left after purchasing the new electric piano and bench for the loft area and those funds have now been moved to the Video Ministry Fundraiser.) If you feel led to contribute toward this outreach ministry, please write a check and in the memo area note... "Video Ministry" or if you would rather donate cash, please note on the outside of your envelope or with a note tucked inside, your name and "Video Ministry". These contributions can be placed in the offering plate or can be mailed to the church (3204 Hixson Pike – Chattanooga, TN 37415). By noting it as such, we will be able to post this donation on your contribution statement for a tax deduction. *(Please see article posted elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the new tax deductions that can be taken for 2020 due to the pandemic.)*

Thank you for your consideration of donating to this important ministry of Cross of Christ. Pastor and I have heard of numerous family members of our congregation that are now able to watch our worship service, individuals who probably wouldn't have shown up at the door of a church, community members that are watching, and visitors who were able to view our service during the last few months when we haven't been able to worship on-location. What a blessing to have this equipment in place and having Matt able to come weekly and put the service together for online viewing. God is so great and powerful in finding ways to spread His Word, even during a pandemic!

If you have any questions on this fundraiser, please feel free to contact Lorilynn at the church office for further details (877-7447). Thank you!

P.S. Matt, Natalie, Jack, and Chloe will be attending the Sunday worship service this week, June 14th and the Saturday worship service next week, June 20th. They are then packing for their move and on the road to St. Louis around the 25-27th. We ask God for protection of this special family during their move and during the journey as Matt becomes a Shepherd for the Lord.



"I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building." That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline. Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among His creation.

In fact, George Washington Carver called nature "an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." And Martin Luther said, "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don't neglect "to meet together" (see Hebrews 10:25)!



Belvoir Christian Academy Seeking Cafeteria Manager

Duties include ordering food, preparing/serving lunch, creating menus, managing lunch accounts, and maintaining kitchen equipment. Cooking and administrative experience preferred.

Christ-centered and loving approach to serving children required. Download application at BCALIONS.org, and mail, along with resume, to frontoffice@bcalions.org



LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

Hygiene Kit Assembly has been postponed until further notice. A new packing date will be announced once a date can be officially set. We will continue with collecting the items as noted below.

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

****No travel size mouthwash due to alcohol content.****

Once our Hygiene Kits are completed, they will be delivered to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen for distribution to our homeless community.

COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE CHIPS!

(from the Sunday basket!!)

Call the office (877-7447) and place your order for coffee, tea, or a bag of chocolate chips. Different types of 'Coffee' (\$8.00) and 'Tea' (\$3.00) are available, along with bags of 'Chocolate Chips' (\$3.50) ...

++Equal Exchange (red bags): *Chai Black Tea; *Congo Full City Roast Coffee - Whole Bean; *French Vanilla - Ground; *Love Buzz - Whole Bean or Ground; *Mind, Body, Soul - Ground; *Toffee Carmel - Ground; *Organic Unwind Decaf Full City Road Coffee - K-Cups

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

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

Place your order and let Lorilynn 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). *Sorry, we are out of Olive Oil at this time. We will include that on our next order!!*



You may have noticed that the front page of our newsletter and the calendar both note that this issue of the newsletter is for the months of June and July.

We will not have another newsletter until August. During this time, please watch your email for important updates and further phasing-in of church activities.

**AUGUST Newsletter Deadline:
July 20th**

Please email the church office with any information or pictures for the newsletter at: church@cocluth.com

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rachel Schlie for stepping up and tackling the newsletter for the last few months. She is now retiring from this position, as she continues down the busy road of being a wonderful mom and wife. Thank you for everything you have done Rachel!

With Rachel stepping away, we now have an opening for a co-editor with our monthly newsletter. If anyone is interested in helping out with the newsletter, please contact Lorilynn.

Update On Re-Opening Plans at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (Phase 4, as of June 8, 2020)

The Elders and Pastor met for a brief meeting on Monday, June 8th to discuss any updates or concerns with the manner in which we are currently holding worship services. **We will continue with the guidelines that everyone MUST wear their own face mask when coming into the church or attending any gathering, for the foreseeable future. Please make sure that the mask covers your whole nose, mouth, and chin areas.** The following updates and changes are effective immediately:

PRIVATE COMMUNION...

- 1) We will continue with Private Holy Communion on Saturday afternoons, from 1-5 p.m. for the foreseeable future. **In addition, Pastor will be available on Wednesday afternoons, starting tomorrow, June 10th,** for Private Confession and the distribution of Holy Communion. (This is not a set-aside time like on Saturday's, but Pastor will be available on Wednesday afternoons.) *(-cont.)*

- 2) **TO ATTEND PRIVATE HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY OR SATURDAY, YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE A RESERVATION** through the church office (877-7747).
 - a. **For Wednesday Holy Communion**, contact the church office **no later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday morning.**
 - b. **For Saturday Holy Communion**, contact the church office **no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.**
- 3) You will continue to enter and exit through the glass doors of the Sanctuary for any Private Holy Communion service.
- 4) Everyone will stand throughout the whole service (approximately 12 minutes), which is held in the Narthex, *but there will be a chair(s) available should it be needed for our elderly or disabled members.*
- 5) You can pull down the mask to receive the Lord's Supper and then immediately pull it back up. PLEASE make sure when pulling up the mask that it covers your whole nose, mouth, and chin areas.
- 6) Individual cups and wafers will be used, which will be placed on a separate tray for each communicant to individually pick up, after the Words of Institution. (Pastor will not be picking up the wafer to give to you.)
- 7) Following each private communion, the area will be cleaned and reset for the next communion reservation.

WORSHIP SERVICES...

We ask that you please continue following all guidelines for attending church, previously mentioned in Phases 1-3, for the time being, for the welfare and protection of all members and their families, along with our staff.

- 1) **We have increased our attendance numbers per service to 35 people.** Depending on attendance, we may need to hold a second service on Sunday's (9:00 and 11:00 am), but that decision has not been made at this time.
- 2) **TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES ON SATURDAY EVENING OR SUNDAY MORNING, YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE A RESERVATION** through the church office (877-7747) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.** We are still hoping to distribute our weekend attendance evenly between the Saturday and Sunday services, so please be willing to attend either service. (At this time, worship liturgy will be exactly the same in both services.)
- 3) **Continue to enter and exit the church through the glass doors only.** This includes EVERYONE... musicians, elders, ushers, organists & pianists, etc...

The door near the church office will be off limits except to Pastor and Lorilyn.

- 4) **Please pick up a service bulletin as you enter the Sanctuary; use the side doors from the Narthex to ENTER and the center aisle doors to EXIT.**
- 5) As you ENTER or EXIT the church, you are asked to drop your offerings into the offering plate. The offering plates will not be passed during this time.
- 6) PLEASE do not congregate in the Narthex as you enter or exit the church. Smile, wave, acknowledge friends, but avoid touching, hand shaking, and hugging.
- 7) ALL rooms, hallways, the nursery & library, and the parlor, along with any stairways (except for the organist, video, and sound operators to get to the loft) are OFF LIMITS currently. The water fountains will NOT be available for usage by children or adults.
- 8) The restrooms by the glass doors and the new upstairs handicapped bathroom are the only restrooms available to be used at this time.

OTHER INFORMATION...

SUNDAY SCHOOL... ONLY Adult Bible Class will restart this Sunday, June 14th, with the following changes...

- 1) **Adult Bible Class will be held in the Sanctuary. There will be no refreshments offered.**
- 2) **Those who wish to remain for Bible Class (immediately following the Sunday worship service) can remain in their pew seats. (Feel free to use the restroom or stand up and stretch before we begin.)**
- 3) **For the next few weeks, we will review the Sunday readings which are not covered in the sermon. (We may or may not meet for a whole hour.)**

Pastor will still not be making personal home or nursing home visits at this time, for HIS protection as well as YOURS.

We will continue to broadcast our weekly worship service at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and plans are to continue the broadcasts when we return to our normal weekly services.

Within the last 48 hours of walking into the church for ANY service or meeting: if you have been sick or feel sick; have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19; or have travelled to a hot spot of COVID-19; please REMAIN AT HOME.

Remember to tell yourself... I am wearing a mask not because I am ill, but because I care for YOUR health. The last thing we want is a resurgence of this silent killer due to someone feeling that they are an exception to the rules. Please know that the Elders 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 move forward. Thank you.



CARES Act Gives You Tax Benefits

Concordia Plan Services has forwarded us some information regarding the Charitable Contribution Incentives for 2020. (These incentives apply to all taxpayers, not just the Concordia Plan members.) Here is the info. that we received which may be of interest to you (also in a more simplified manner without all the legal mumble jumble...)

Note: This document briefly summarizes provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("the CARES Act") that could possibly be of interest to church plans, ministries and plan members. This summary reflects those CARES Act provisions as they are currently understood on March 31, 2020, without any agency guidance. As guidance is issued that may be applicable, we plan to provide information to you on that guidance or to refer you to that guidance, but may not be able to update the summary with that information. This summary is for general information only. It is not a complete analysis and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Please consult your tax adviser for further information.

Thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act, otherwise known as the CARES Act, there are some temporary but significant changes in the tax codes to encourage charitable giving.

> During 2020, each taxpayer can deduct \$300 (or \$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions *without* itemizing.

> During 2020, individuals who itemize can deduct up to 100% of their annual gross income (up from 60%) for charitable giving.

> During 2020, corporations can deduct up to 25% of taxable income (up from 10%) for charitable giving.

Charitable Contribution Incentives

- **Allowance of Partial "Above the Line" Deduction for Charitable Contributions**

The provision encourages individuals to contribute to religious, charitable, and educational organizations by creating a new "above the line" deduction (*i.e. for taxpayers who take the standard deduction*). This deduction will permit them to deduct up to \$300 of annual monetary contributions. This is applicable for tax years beginning after 2019 and does not sunset after 2020 like the increased limits described below.

- **Modification of Limitations on Charitable Contributions during 2020**

The provision increases the limitations on deductions for charitable contributions by individuals who itemize, as well as corporations. Such cash contributions must be made during 2020, and this provision does not extend the due date of the 2020 tax return. For individuals, the 60-percent of adjusted gross income limitation is suspended for cash contributions made in 2020. For corporations, the 10-percent limitation is increased to 25 percent of taxable income for cash contributions made in 2020. This provision also increases the limitation on deductions from 15- percent to 25-percent of net income for corporate food donations made during 2020.

After reading the above, there is no better time than the present to start planning for your 2020 tax filing, before the end of the year and before tax time rolls around next year! **Your tax-deductible gift today will go farther than ever in 2020!!**



PASTOR WILL BE OUT-OF-THE-OFFICE...

starting June 21st (leaving around 1pm) to June 27th (arriving back for the Saturday evening service).

During this time, the following events WILL NOT be held...

June 24th – NO Wednesday Private Communion

June 25th – NO Crossways Class

June 27th – NO Saturday Private Communion

June 27th – 6pm Saturday Evening Worship Held

Should you require any assistance during this time period, please contact your personal Elder, our Head Elder (Tony Pessini 423-602-5585) or the church office (877-7447). Lorilynn will also have contact information for a local Pastor should an emergency need arise.

Thank you.



WEBUPDATES

-and-

Facebook Pages

Updates & information to be posted to the above can be emailed to: secretary@cocluth.com Changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!

**** PORTALS OF PRAYER FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER ****

Available in a basket in the Narthex on Saturday & Sunday. During the week, stop by and pick on up on the breezeway outside the office entry doors. (Homebound members will have a booklet mailed to them.)



FACE MASKS AVAILABLE!

CHILDREN'S, WOMEN'S, AND MEN'S SIZES

At Saturday and Sunday worship services, there will be a box on the bench in the Narthex with various mask sizes. Each large bag is labeled with the type of masks within the bag (men, women, and one size for small children...ages 3-6 yrs.). Please do not open the individual bags (inside the large bag) unless you are buying that particular mask. We are asking for \$1.00 per mask, but many are adding in a little extra -- paying it forward -- to help cover basic costs of the masks.

From Monday thru Friday, the box is on the table by the church office. If you would rather have time to look and see the many fabric designs available, call and let Lorilynn know you will be stopping by.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the team of Elaine Burns and Eunice Timm, for making these masks for men, women, and children in our congregation and for others in the community. What a tremendous outpouring of love you are sharing with others. Thank you!



An Invitation To Rest

Summer calls to mind a slower pace, time off from school and work. But many still face daily demands this time of year: farmers work long hours; teachers may take seasonal work to make ends meet; parents with kids now home all day may catch up on work late at night. Still, may the longer days and warmer weather beckon you into a bit of free time this season.

Take the time to "Listen"...

"When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow. You cannot serve from an empty vessel."

—Eleanor Brownn (public speaker and educator)

"Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential ... to make sure that your most important decision in the day [is] which color to slide down on the rainbow."

—Douglas Pagels (author)

"Rest time is not waste time; it is economy to gather fresh strength. ... In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less."

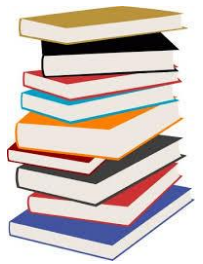
—Charles Spurgeon

"Come to me, all you that are weary ... and I will give you rest. ... For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

—Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)

Cross of Christ Reads!

We will not be meeting until the "All's Clear" is officially given. I hope you are all enjoying having the time to read to your heart's content. Keep a book list to share when we next meet. Meanwhile, stay well and read a good book. ~Sylvia



THE "WOW!" FACTOR

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, "Wow!" The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout "Wow!" — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a "Wow!" of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

~adapted from HomeTouch Ministry



JUNE & JULY 2020

Welcome to a very generic, non-dated, calendar of events! Since we are still working under pandemic restrictions and holding very few events at the church, this gives you an idea of current weekly happenings at this time.

August Newsletter Deadline JULY 20th
(articles or pictures)

Due to COVID-19, we will continue to take reservations for the Saturday Private Holy Communion service and also for worship services on Saturday and Sunday. Please call the church office no later than 4:00 p.m. every Thursday for reservations for any of these services.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 am Worship 10 am Adult Bible Study			<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday Afternoon Private Communion Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion	<u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways		1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
9 am Worship 10 am Adult Bible Study			<u>11 am Deadline for Wednesday Afternoon Private Communion Afternoon</u> Private Holy Communion	<u>4 pm Deadline for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services</u> 6:30 pm Crossways		1-5 p.m. Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
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