

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

MAY

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.

COPING WITH BEING COOPED-UP

Well brothers and sisters in the Lord, here we are, still waiting and wondering – waiting for that opportunity to again be together for worship and other joint activities, wondering how soon that will be and how to correctly balance patience and recklessness. Probably you and I both are beginning to think, “Okay, enough is enough of this isolated existence!” Maybe we can now relate a little better with the cry of the Old Testament prophets: “How long, O Lord, how long?”

Yet for me personally, along with all those emotions, what I am most deeply experiencing is a time of profound sadness. I am sad that we cannot be together. I am sad that I cannot see your face and listen to your chatter and laughter in the hallways and narthex. I am sad that your bright eyes and warm smiles don't greet me as I step into the pulpit. I guess what I'm saying is that I miss being with all of you, and each of you... I really do! And I know you miss each other – that's how it's supposed to be in the Church! That's why the Bible speaks of the fellowship of believers as the family of God. Especially in times like this when circumstances force us to remain physically apart. It is spiritually healthy and wholesome for us to pray for our brothers and sisters and to stay in touch with them (as we are able) with a quick note or phone call. In that way we can come along side each of us and fulfill St. Paul's hope in Romans 1:12, “That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.” So, pick up a pen, open your laptop, or grab the phone to touch base with someone from the church that you have not contacted or chatted with over the past several weeks, just to say “HI! You've been on my mind and heart – and I wanted to know how you are doing.”

As far as worship together beginning again, I am hopeful and looking forward to the possibility of an Ascension or Pentecost timeframe, by the end of this month, because it's still a little “weird” preaching to an empty sanctuary... although having your smiling faces looking back at me from your photos is very nice. THANKS Lorilynn! The Elders and I will be discussing the pros and cons of moving forward and how best to proceed in a wise and cautious manner. And while I can't guarantee when that special weekend will come, I can tell you that it will come as we scatter out across the pews to lift our voices to the Lord in thanks and praise for His goodness and blessings.

Until that time, as you and I look around at our Heavenly Father's bountiful care and the riches of our Savior's new life through the wonder of His resurrection, may these words to the Philippians find their present-day fulfillment in us: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: ‘Rejoice!’ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:4-6)

I look forward to being with you soon!

Pastor Hildebrandt



From the Congregational President

Since the Board of Directors were not able to meet in March or April, in preparation for our May elections I would like to ask you to either consider serving on the board if you aren't already OR suggest to me the name of a member who you would recommend.

The positions up for Nominations this year are:

- Treasurer
- Christian Education
- Social Ministry
- Evangelism
- President

The incumbent Treasurer, Nathan Schlie, is still eligible to continue, but the other positions have served the maximum of two, two-year terms.

Please send me your suggestions for these positions OR consider serving the church in one of these roles yourself. Your prompt response would be greatly appreciated. Contact me at 653-8105 or email me at zehnj@gmail.com

May the Lord be with you and your family members!
Hope to see you soon. ~Larry Zehnder



BCA WILL BE FINISHING OUT THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR ONLINE

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
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Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



Hygiene Kit Assembly has been postponed until further notice. Packing date will be announced once a date can be officially set.

LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

Collecting NEW and UNUSED:

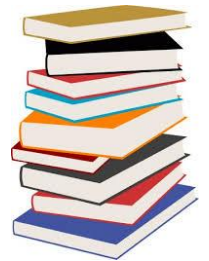
- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size conditioner
- Travel size soap
- Travel size lotion
- Travel size toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Nail clippers
- Disposable razor
- Wide-tooth comb
- Packs of purse-size Kleenex
- Individually wrapped handi-wipes

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

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

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 at our next meeting. Meanwhile, stay well and read a good book. ~Sylvia



Church Website & Facebook Page

Updates & info. to be posted can be emailed to: **secretary@cocluth.com** and changes will be taken care of by our webmasters. Thanks!

JUNE Newsletter Deadline:
MAY 20th

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



Concordia University System

The Concordia University System is comprised of 8 universities and colleges across the United States at 9 campuses (Ann Arbor and Wisconsin are now considered one Institution with two separate campuses). Originally established to provide training for LCMS pre-seminarians and school teachers, the University System now offers a wide variety of undergrad programs (over 160 to be exact) as well as 50 graduate programs.

Each campus is unique and beautiful in its own regard, and each has its own individual history which we won't dive into here. Really, we could focus on one per month for the next eight months and still hardly cover everything - there's lots to talk about for each! With that said, let's stick to some general basics and perks that pertain to the Concordia's as a whole.

At each Concordia, you will find:

1. A Christ-centered learning environment; each upholds the teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
2. Commitment to providing quality education in the liberal arts & training up Christian leaders to serve the church, community, and world.
3. Financial assistance to almost 90% of the students; a variety of grant & scholarship opportunities provided.
4. Opportunity to enroll at another campus for up to a year.
5. Smaller class sizes & a great student-teacher ratio, a majority of Synodically trained faculty, competitive resources and opportunities compared to other institutions.
6. A plethora of extracurricular activities from sports to music to campus ministry.
7. A unique, beautiful campus setting (ie. ocean in CA, Lake Michigan shoreline in WI, next to a nature preserve in TX); many are within proximity to a major city (Austin, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York...)

Any high school students reading this, or grandparents of youth who are college-bound in the near future, please consider checking out one of our Synod's amazing higher education resources!

Visit <https://cuw.edu> for more information on the Concordia University System, including a complete list of Majors and Programs offered, financial aid information, and a more thorough explanation of the standards for their Board, Faculty and Staff.

"Google" a Concordia to visit their individual webpage for more detailed information on their history, campus life and what they have to offer.

Concordia's in the University System:

Concordia College- NY: Bronxville, New York
Concordia University Chicago: River Forest, Illinois
Concordia University, Nebraska: Seward, Nebraska
Concordia University: St. Paul, Minnesota
Concordia University Wisconsin: Mequon, Wisconsin
Concordia University: Ann Arbor, Michigan
Concordia University: Irvine, California
Concordia University Texas: Austin, Texas
(*Concordia College, Selma, AL was recently closed & Concordia University Portland, Oregon will be closing next month)

Interested in talking to an Alum of a Concordia? The following have attended a Concordia:
(*my apologies if I missed anyone)

Concordia University Nebraska:

Bob & Eunice Timm; Alta Hook

Concordia University Chicago:

Dave & Becky Mietzner (former teachers at BCA)

Concordia University Wisconsin:

Philip & Erin McCall (former CoC members):

Rachel Schlie

Concordia University Irvine:

Pastor Josh Woodrow (Bridge City Community) & wife, Jenny (teacher at BCA)



Initial Re-Opening Plans For Cross of Christ Church (Phase 1, as of May 4, 2020)

The Elders, Pastor and President Zehnder met on Monday, May 4th to discuss a re-opening plan for our church. We have set preliminary target dates of Saturday, May 30th and Sunday, May 31st for our initial services. 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. Hamilton County is expected to become a "hot spot" for COVID-19 in the next 2-3 weeks. The outcome experienced within the community will determine whether we proceed with our plans to move forward with re-opening or delay further.

There will be strict protocol guidelines for attending church for the time being, for the welfare and protection of all members and their families, and our staff. The protocol guidelines are noted below this message. PLEASE, do not put an usher or elder in the position of having to refuse your entry to a service because you are not following these guidelines. If you feel you cannot comply with the guidelines as noted below, please REFRAIN from coming to church until you can. The last thing we want is a resurgence of this silent killer due to someone feeling they are an exception to these rules.

Initially as we re-open our church services, there will be no communion served, but plans continue to evolve on this subject. Pastor will still be sequestered and will not be making home visits, for HIS protection as well as YOURS. Remember to tell yourself... I am wearing a mask not because I am ill, but because I care for you.

Protocols For Attending CoC Church Services:

- a) Vulnerable populations (those 65 and older, people with disabilities, serious respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, immunocompromised, and all those with underlying health conditions) are highly advised and recommended to remain at home until a later date.
- b) Within the last 48 hours of walking into the church for ANY reason, 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.
- c) To maintain a maximum of 45 people at any service (50%), you **MUST** make a reservation with the church office as to which service you will attend (Saturday or Sunday) and how many people will be in your group which will be sitting together. Children and teens need to sit with their respective families during this time. (We are hoping to distribute our weekend attendance evenly between the Saturday and Sunday services during this re-opening phase, so please be willing to attend either service. Worship will be exactly the same in both services, both using the same service bulletin.)

- d) 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. They will be phased in during our re-opening plans. The restrooms by the glass doors and the new upstairs handicapped bathroom are the only restrooms in the church to be used at this time.
- e) There is a baby changing table in the upstairs handicapped bathroom. Please use the Clorox wipes provided to wipe down the baby table when used, before leaving the bathroom.
- f) The water fountain will **NOT** be available for usage by children or adults.
- g) If you have children, please be aware that they cannot go into any rooms or be in the hallways at this time. They must always be with you .
- h) Everyone, of ANY age, **MUST** wear a mask/face covering at all times. There are no exceptions. (Masks will NOT be provided by the church).
- i) PLEASE 'self-sanitize' hands before leaving your vehicle. We will have someone opening the glass doors for you, as we must keep count of the number of people attending and then you do not have to touch the door handles.

The church service will proceed as noted below:

- a) 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 Lorilynn.
- b) Please pick up a service bulletin from a table inside the glass doors, as they will not be passed out. The service will be printed, including hymns, you will not need to use the hymnal. Please take your bulletin home with you. (Please recycle your bulletins at home and do not leave them in the pews or laying around the church proper. At this time, all hymnals, Bibles, and attendance books & pencils have been removed from each pew.)
- c) Please DO NOT congregate in the Narthex or sit on the pew in the Narthex. Go directly to a pew inside the church and sit down. If you ride together, you may sit together. If you drove alone, sit 6 feet from the nearest person.
- d) Be aware that every other pew will be closed, and 6 feet social distancing will apply to each area. Ushers and elders can assist you with seating arrangements.
- e) You are asked to drop your offerings into the offering plate as you ENTER or EXIT the church. The offering plates will not be passed during this time.
- f) PLEASE do not congregate in the Narthex as you exit the church. Smile, wave, acknowledge friends, but avoid touching, hand shaking, and hugging. If you

want to speak to each other, go outside to the parking lot or grassy areas and follow the 6 feet social distancing. We want you healthy and back here the following week.

- g) PLEASE do not stop just outside the glass doors to visit, as all members need to exit the same way they came in, through the glass doors, and while exiting please maintain the 6 feet social distancing guidelines.
- h) Initially, there will be no communion, Sunday School, or choirs. These will be phased into our re-opening plans at a later time.

We truly understand that the above guidelines are a change to our custom of worship and may be viewed as an inconvenience to the way that we attend church and have fellowship with each other. These are the adjustments we need to make to hold church services on site and we must follow the guidelines as directed by those from the Office of the Governor of Tennessee and the CDC. Please know that we are doing all the above for YOUR safety and the well-being of you and your families health. 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.

We are very aware that taking the recommended actions may cause some tension or controversy. We also respect your decision which you make for you and your family to attend church or to stay home at this time. If you have concerns or complaints regarding these protocol guidelines, I respectfully ask that you do not call Pastor or Lorilynn. They are very busy organizing and getting these plans put into effect. Call Tony Pessini, Chairman of the Elders, to discuss any questions or concerns you may have at 423-602-5585.

These re-opening plans will be reviewed again on Monday, May 18th, when the same group gathers together and re-evaluates the feasibility of moving forward. At that time, our re-opening plans will be compared with the then current impact of the virus in our community and future steps can hopefully be undertaken. This is Phase 1 and we will notify you when we will resume Holy Communion, Bible classes, Sunday School, open the Nursery/Library, etc...

Thank you.

Tony Pessini, Chairman of the Elders



May 7 is the National Day of Prayer.

Due to the limit on gathering people together, we are going to come together to pray for an hour as the Body of Christ in our homes and offices. This year, Stuart Heights Baptist will be the local church streaming the National Day of Prayer from the [Chattanooga House of Prayer](#). We are all invited to join them on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) at 12:00 Noon. The stream will be offered again at 7 p.m. that night.

If you would like a Prayer Guide for "National Day of Prayer – Metro Chattanooga" please contact Lorilynn and she will forward you the Prayer Guide on Thursday.

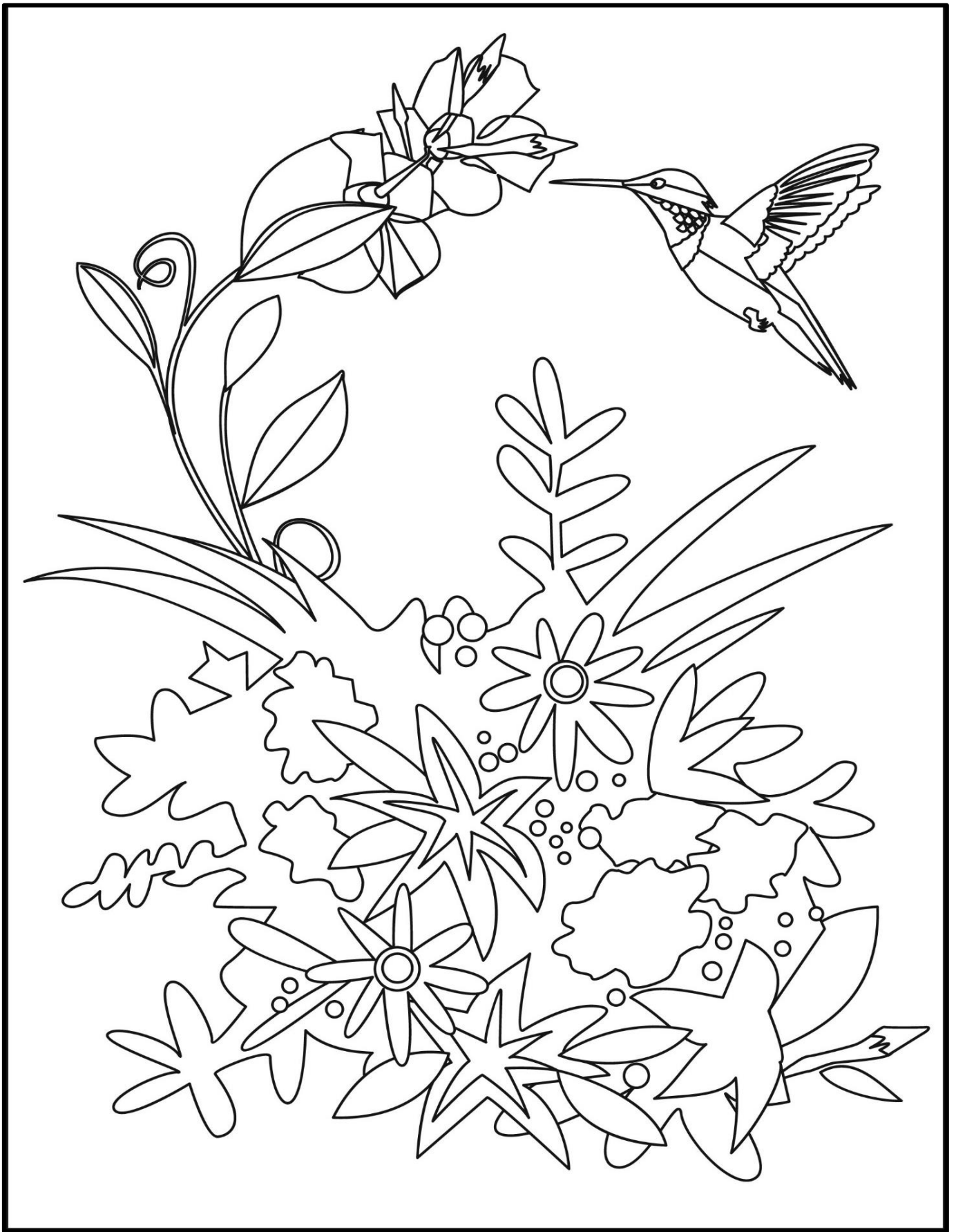


We would like to congratulate our 2020 graduates:

K.C. Welsh – graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Scripps College in Claremont, CA. Her Major is in History, with a Minor in Anthropology. Her current plan after graduation is to help take care of her dad, chill out for a few months, and check out graduate schools.

Zachary Land – graduating from Red Bank High School. Zach is still looking into and considering all avenues presented for his future after graduation.

NOTE: There is no May calendar attached. Currently the only scheduled event happening is... Crossways on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m.



This page has been provided for you to print off and give to your children to color for a Mother's Day picture.
(Or... if you do adult coloring pictures this will make a beautiful picture.)