

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

NOVEMBER

2020



Our Mission Statement

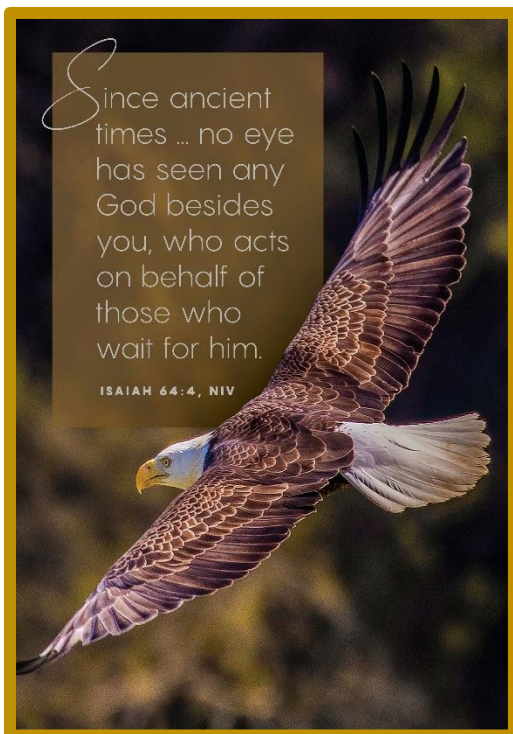
To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

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.



NOVEMBER NOTIONS 2020

With the coming of November and thoughts about the last weeks of 2020, we may be recalling short family trips over the school break (maybe to grandma's house), Thanksgiving services (maybe to our present church or perhaps our childhood parish), wonderful family feasts (with those once-a-year special treats), and the beginning of the Advent Season (which this year will not include mid-week worship). Nevertheless, even with the coronavirus impacting our normal holiday preparations and activities, this does not mean that Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas won't happen... they will just be different, as our approach changes with the "new normal." Which hopefully will only be temporary.

So, for this year, Thanksgiving worship will happen on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Advent worship with its emphasis on waiting and preparing will take place on the four weekends (not on Wednesday's) after Thanksgiving. Finally, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (which falls on Thursday and Friday) attendance will somehow have to be adjusted, in order to even out the numbers worshipping on those two days. More details on this will be forthcoming, as the Elders and I examine some different scenarios and possibilities.

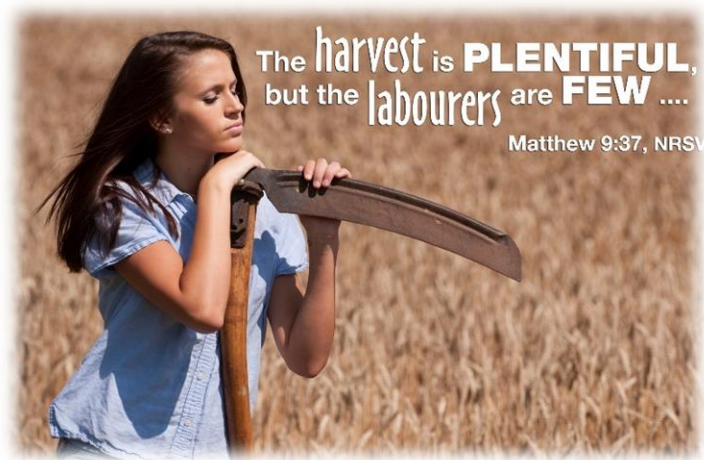
However, before we get too far down the road toward a year-end-focus, I would like to consider our calling at the present moment. In most communities around America the harvest is finished and the preparation of the soil for the next growing season is beginning. With these particular activities, the cycle of nature continues according to God's plan for His world. The task of the Church is much the same as we find ourselves commissioned to be continually about the business of "working in the harvest fields." We are to plant the seed of God's Word and to assist in nurturing and cultivating the hearts of people, so that the Holy Spirit can cause the seed that has been planted to grow and mature, and thus prepare those believing souls to be ready for the Final Harvest. (cont. pg. 2)

NOVEMBER NOTIONS 2020

This time of year then reminds us of our Savior's command: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations..." Please understand, this task laid before the Church as a whole is really the individual talk handed over to you and me—not someone else—because we are the Church. Certainly, the best way for us to prepare for this work set before us by our Lord is to be in God's House, or watching with others on-line, as His Word to us is read and preached, and as we also make time on our own to "search the Scriptures." In this fashion our own faith matures, and we find ourselves better equipped to be witnesses for Jesus.

Without a doubt, responding to Christ's Great Commission is an invitation extended to each of us here at Cross Christ. May we over the remaining days of this year, heed His call and provide the Holy Spirit every opportunity to grow our faith. Even in these circumstances which cause us to view things from a new perspective and to rethink what it means to be our Lord's disciples in our present world, we pledge to Him our time, our treasures, and our talents.

Pastor Hildebrandt



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."

—St. Therese of Lisieux



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG.
Tuesday, November 17th
6 p.m. (via ZOOM mtg.)

The Board of Directors will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 6 p.m., via ZOOM. Please register through the ZOOM link which you will be receiving on November 13th (Friday), in order to forward you the necessary papers needed for this important meeting. Your attendance and input are needed at this meeting, as we will be putting together the 2021 Budget to present for approval at the Quarterly Voters' Meeting on December 6th. Should you have anything to add to the agenda, please contact Mark Burns or the church office, no later than noon on Friday, November 13th.

Thank you.

VOTERS'



By means of this November newsletter, we are posting a two-week notice of the Quarterly Voters' meeting. "ZOOM at 2" which will be held on **December 6th, 2:00 p.m.**

If you are not attending these Quarterly Voters' Meetings, we invite you to participate. We value your opinion on decisions put before our congregation and would like your input, and when needed, your vote.

If you have something you would like brought up at the December 6th meeting, please contact Mark Burns (734-223-0503) or the church office, no later than Wednesday, December 2nd by noon, in order to get it on the meeting agenda.

Please plan to join us at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. All you need to do is register that you will be joining us. More details about the "ZOOM at 2" *Quarterly Voters' Meeting* will be forthcoming, watch your email for registration info. the week of November 23rd. If you would like to become a voting member at this meeting, please contact Lorilynn for more information. Thank you.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
November 2020

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son’s blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God’s holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God’s hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God’s providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



Thank you to everyone who completed and turned in a 2021 Pledge Card and the Time and Talent Sheet. If you did not turn them in or forgot, please mail them to the church office or drop them in the offering basket as soon as possible.



Welcome to our newest group of confirmands and the newest members of our church. Sunday, November 8th, six (6) people pledged their Christian faith after taking our Adult Instruction Class, taught by Pastor. *Our new members are Rose Acquavella, Joan Bartlett, Joyce Croft, Patricia Reynolds, and Sandy & Eric Turner.* Cross of Christ is so excited to welcome these new members, especially with the pandemic going on. God has led them here. Each of these new members found us while searching for a church which taught from the Holy Bible and was set in tradition. *(Next spring we hope to host a Fellowship Welcome Reception, to properly welcome all our new members from 2019 & 2020.)*



(L. to R. Patricia Reynolds, Rose Acquavella, Joan Bartlett, Joyce Croft, Sandy & Eric Turner and Pastor)

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS TO MAKE ROOM FOR FALL & WINTER CLOTHES?



GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND DOING SOME FALL CLEANING?

Sack up anything you, your spouse, or your kids have outgrown and bring it to the church. Clothing can be of any size... bring your big and small clothes, for both males and females. Purses, bags, shoes, belts, etc... are also welcome. All clothing MUST be clean and in good condition, 'NO' mending needed. (The season of clothes you bring does not matter when you donate them, as everything and anything is needed for our homeless community.)

Doing some fall 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 in useable and non-damaged condition. Put them in a box or sack and bring them to church. **PLEASE do not make the boxes, bags, or baskets heavy or overstuff them** (think of Arlene and/or Lorilynn loading the items). (It would be better to make 2 bags than 1 giant one.) Set them by the table outside the church office or on the landing at the top of the stairs (across from the church office).

Arlene Vickers will get them to various homeless agencies which she deals with. 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



CCK Picking Up Hygiene Kit Items On October 14th

LWML Hygiene Kit Collection

Due to the pandemic, Hygiene Kit Assembly has been cancelled until further notice. But that didn't stop Joni Rennhack and Arlene Vickers from packing up everything that has been collected this year for the Chattanooga Community Kitchen (CCK) homeless population. (In March, when the pandemic hit, we had just scheduled an April packing party, as we had already received a lot of items, but we kept rescheduling...) Boxes and boxes, bags and bags, of... soap, conditioner, shampoo, combs, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and lotion were put together and picked up by CCK.



If you happen to be traveling, we will still 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.****





**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. We are also reminding everyone to call 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 allow 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 for Pastor and the Ushers, which are needed each weekend. *Since COVID began, we now have a new way of keeping attendance for the Synod. When you call in, you are helping the office to complete the necessary paperwork.* (You can also think of it as our way of tracking, should someone come down with COVID within the church.)

The following guidelines still apply for making your reservations for Holy Communion and our worship services by the appropriate day and time each week. *(Please be aware... if you accidentally forget to call in and make your reservation, you are still welcome to attend either service. The Saturday service has a few more open seats than Sunday.)*

Wednesday Holy Communion (by 11am, Wednesday)
Saturday Holy Communion (by 4pm on Thursday)
Worship Service on Saturday evening (6pm) -or-
Sunday morning (9am) - by 4pm on Thursday

SPECIAL NOTE: Please remember to register by Tuesday, November 24th at 5pm, for the Thanksgiving Eve service.

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



Deadline for the
December Newsletter
NOVEMBER 20th



**COLD WEATHER WILL SOON BE HERE!!
GET YOUR COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE CHIPS...**

Did you know that Cross of Christ 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) and 'Tea' (\$3.00) are available, along with delicious 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

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). *Sorry, we are still out of Olive Oil at this time.*

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

Lorilynn Baier is a Commissioned Notary Public with the State of Tennessee and can notarize paperwork for you. Call the church office (877-7447) for details or to set up an appointment time. (Should there be an emergency, she will 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).



**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.

We will continue with the guidelines that everyone MUST wear a face mask when coming into the church, attending Private Holy Communion, 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!!) **Please make sure that the mask covers your whole nose, mouth, and chin areas.**

Remember to tell yourself... **I AM WEARING A MASK NOT BECAUSE I AM ILL, BUT BECAUSE I CARE FOR YOU!** 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 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 move forward. Thank you.



Thank you to all our veterans and their families. Your service to America has not, will not, and does not, go unnoticed by others. God Bless You.



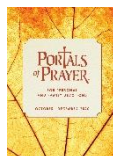
WEBUPDATES
-and-

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
DEVOTION BOOKS
** OCTOBER-DECEMBER ****

We still have some Portals of Prayer devotion books available in a basket 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.



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

New 'Fall Colors' are available. 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 one size for small children...ages 3-6 yrs. and another for older children...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. If you desire to get one, please call and let Lorilynn know you will be stopping by to check them out.





birthday bunch!

We have all missed getting together to chat and enjoy food and fellowship these last few months. The months have passed by, some more slowly than another, but the good thoughts about our friends are still there. Didn't get a chance to sign up for our 2020 Birthday Bunch, no problem... every woman in the church is part of our group.

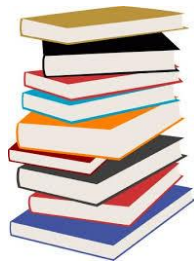
Pick up the phone and chat or text someone who you have missed, not seen lately, or have not spoken to in a long time. Send them an email or write a letter. Knit them a sweater! Send up a smoke signal! We will all get through this together. If you are having a tough time with loneliness, being apart from others, just need someone to talk to, etc... call someone. That is what being Sisters in Christ means... to share the good times and the tough/rough times. We can help each other.

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. Well... as they say, "Real Guys Wear Pink", so the saying should say "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.

Cross of Christ Reads!

This group will not be meeting until the "All's Clear" is officially given. We hope you are all enjoying having the time to read to your heart's content.

Fiction, non-fiction, self-help, recipes, history, travel, or as they say... whatever trips your switch! Enjoy!!



THANK YOU TO OUR BELL CHOIR MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR!! What joy you bring to our worship services! Even with the social distancing that you are having to undertake for rehearsals, we are blessed and love to hear the bells at our services.

Thank you also to our Media Team for recording the Bell Choir and getting it onto the video that is shown on our website and Facebook site, along with bringing the bells into the worship service prelude at both services. This would probably be one of those events that "You have made lemonade out of lemons!"

THANK YOU ALL!



**ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?
HAVE YOU USED UP YOUR
TWO (2) CARDS FOR 2020?**

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?

Apply for a Community Impact Card with funds of \$250.00 to kick-start your project. If you can't think of something for a project, contact Pastor or Lorilynn. We have a list of ideas and suggestions to help our community. **Remember... by December 31st all 2020 Action Team cards have to be applied for a project. This project must be completed by February 2021.** We also just found out that you only need two (2) people to make a team. **Thrivent wants you to use their money to help the community. Don't leave your \$250-\$500 unused!** If you have any questions about getting a card, using it, etc... contact Bob Timm, Pastor or Lorilynn for more info.

Positive change begins with your generosity.





Children's Sunday Classes

Due to the current pandemic, the Cross of Christ Board of Directors has decided not to conduct Children's Sunday School in person at this time. We recognize the need to continue to minister to our children and their need to believe in God, so we are including in the church's weekly email update, a preschool and/or elementary school age Sunday School lesson and activity.

We will be sending it separately from the normal Friday Update for the month of November, to draw attention to this new form of ministry for our children and their families. Our hope is that families can print or share these lessons with their children, in order to do Sunday School at home. We will try to tie these lessons in with the week's scripture readings or sermon from the worship service. (Pastor is going to be talking about different parables in Matthew 25 for the next few weeks, so we will also be focusing our attention there.) After the first 3-4 weeks, these lessons will be included as an attachment to the Friday weekly updates, until the Board of Directors agrees that it is safe for children to again meet in person for Sunday school.

You will see a lot of info. (for you as the parent) in the first couple of weeks, as we introduce you to the curriculum and what you can do at home. You can use as little or as much as you desire, based on the age of your children. Some weeks we will have something for preschool children and grade school children, and some weeks only grade school children. You as a parent can use what you think your child or children will understand. As we go along, we will gradually lessen the "what should I as a parent be doing" and have the basic lesson, activity, take home page, and prayers. Please contact Alison Pugh if you have any concerns or questions with this curriculum.

Please feel free to adapt the lessons to fit your child, as this is only a starting point to begin a Sunday School lesson in your home for your child or children.

God's Blessings,
Alison and Nathan Pugh



Ways you can SERVE

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO ASSIST US?

We continue to look for volunteers to serve on the Education Committee Board, and also for future Sunday School teachers for all ages of children and teen youth classes. We currently do not have any volunteers for teachers this academic year. We will need to have teachers in place, for when we get the word that we can again begin meeting in a classroom or to get a class going online in the near future.

We ask each of you to prayerfully consider being part of the Christian Education Board, as we have many ages of kids and teens that need our guidance, especially during this time. You are never too old to help teach a little one to believe in God or help a teenager work through and strengthen their beliefs. We also would welcome mentors on our Education Board to help us with our curriculum and how to reach out to others, in these ministry areas.

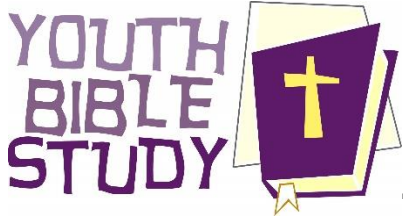
If you have questions on what these positions entail (you can even get your best friend together and team teach), please contact Alison or Nathan Pugh at 423-432-1991 for ideas, concerns, or if you wish to volunteer.



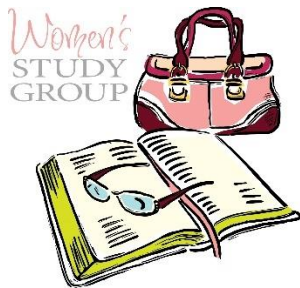
ADULT BIBLE CLASS

will continue to be held in the in the Sanctuary. At this time, we continue to study the Sunday readings, which are currently from various parables. **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. Also feel free to use the restroom or stand up and stretch before we begin.)

COLLEGE-AGE, YOUNG ADULTS, SINGLE ADULTS... are you wanting to host or have a Bible Study? Please contact Alison or Nathan Pugh at 423-432-1991 if you are interested and want something put together. They would like to chat with you about topics and your suggestions or ideas for a class or a way to explore God's Word during this un-normal time.



TEEN/YOUTH and PARENTS OF THIS AGE GROUP... do you have an idea of how to study God's Word during these un-normal times? Would you be interested in getting a *ZOOM* class together on Sunday to talk about what's going on in the world and how the Bible can help you deal with current situations you may be experiencing? If you are interested, please contact Alison or Nathan Pugh at 423-432-1991 to chat about suggestions, ideas, topics, etc... Cross of Christ has not forgotten you and we are here to help you work thru the un-normal times we currently live in.



WOMEN... JOIN US!! The Women's JOY Class is beginning a new study. It's not too late to join! Our study is entitled "Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman" written by Elizabeth Ahlman. We would like to invite all women and their friends to join us in this study. At this time, our class is meeting on *Zoom* or at Aubrey's restaurant in Hixson. (The weekly meeting notices will let you know how & where we are meeting.) Class time is 11:15am-12:30pm on Sunday mornings. If you would like to attend the class please let Sylvia Hildebrandt know ASAP. You can purchase a copy of the book through her. An email list and access to our Facebook Group and *ZOOM* contact numbers will also be provided when you join the fellowship. Please come! (Sylvia 227-4784 or HTexasNatives@gmail.com)



Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, the following annual events have been cancelled for 2020. We all look forward to having these events return in 2021! We continue to pray for the health and safety of you and your loved ones.

+ **Advent Dinners** (see Pastor's letter)
 + **LWML Christmas Brunch** (We will continue with our tradition of doing something special for children. This year we will be collecting toys for children, whose families are assisted by Northside Neighborhood House. Deadline is December 14th. **(We invite all interested members to join us. Watch your email for further details.)** Thank you to one of our members for applying for a Thrivent Card for this project.



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

CHRISTMAS BOOK DRIVE

We, as a church, are going to collect books, of any type, for **TOYS FOR TOTS**. The books need to be new and can be for any age group from baby to young adults. The books you collect can be dropped into a box that will be located in the Narthex or the church office hallway. Deadline is December 13th. Contact Donna Flippin for more details. Thank you to one of our members for applying for a Thrivent Card for this project.

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

Email: church@cocluth.com
 Office: 423-877-7447
 Info. Line: 423-648-0995
 FAX: 423-870-2990
www.cocluth.com
 Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier



**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?**

Let's try something different!

**Join us for a ZOOM Happy Hour!
(Bring your own beverage.)**

**Friday, November 20th
5:00-6:00 PM**

(Hosted by Joni Rennhack and Jane Rudat)

We can actually put eyes on each other again, share what's been happening in our lives, check out our hair length and color, and **see our smiles, without a mask!**

All adult members are invited to join us!!

To be included, you will need to register your interest by Wednesday, November 18th at noon. Lorilynn will be sending out a ZOOM registration link on Friday, November 13, in order to get the Zoom Happy Hour organized. Watch your email! We will proceed forward from there!

ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

What is your favorite place you have ever lived or visited and why (3 minutes)?

Looking forward to seeing you on November 20th!



VANCO AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to have your offerings/tithes come directly to the church from your bank.

If you want an easy way 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 we are 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 1st or the 15th, for whatever amount you choose to give.

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 when the Board of Directors puts together the 2021 budget.)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

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

- + Our Website... cocluth.com (click on box 'Watch Latest Service')
- + Our Facebook page... [Facebook.com/cocluth](https://www.facebook.com/cocluth) (click 'More' then 'Videos')
- + Our YouTube Channel... <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EcX5C2dk3fBiyyyorPJfg>





NEWS & UPDATES

102!! Yes, 102 boxes were loaded onto a trailer for the LWML CARE-Van on November 6th. Thank you to Eunice Timm and Monica & Mike Witherby for spending the morning accepting these boxes from churches around the region. (And then, because the truck was late dropping off the trailer, getting them loaded without the help of our drop-off people... who usually put their boxes directly into the trailer.)

- 357 Quilts or Blankets
- 290 Personal Care Kits
- 48 School Kits
- 176 Baby Care Kits
- 85 Cotton Masks (for COVID Protection)

All these items will be combined with others from across the United States, for Lutheran World Relief, and sent to disaster areas around the world. Thank you to our Quilting Group who contributed to this total.

Churches that participated this year were from Athens, TN; Cross of Christ and First in Chattanooga, TN; Cleveland, TN; Madison, AL; and Biloxi, Mississippi.



(L. to R. Eunice Timm, Mike and Monica Witherby No truck at this time, but we had a tarp to gather everything on until it arrived.)



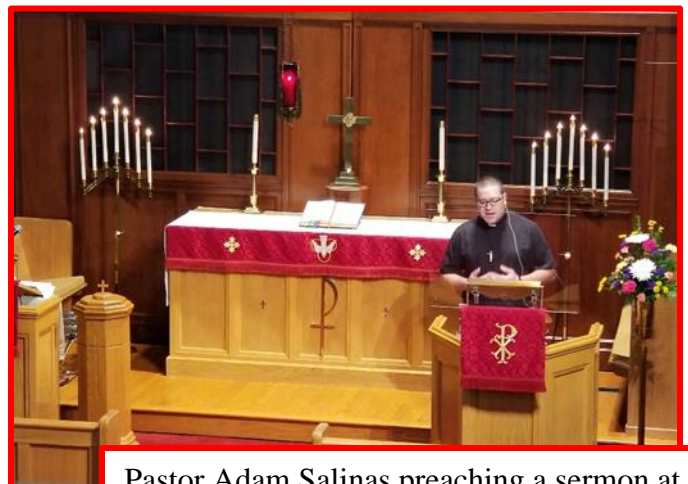
(Our boxes packed in the trailer.)

CHRISTMAS QUILTS HAVE ARRIVED...

The quilters put their first bunch of quilts on the rack in the Narthex. **There are more coming!** If you see one you like, be sure to grab it, as when they're gone, they're gone. They make great gifts or beautiful additions to your holiday décor. **Cost is \$50.00 per quilt.** Please give your check (made out to 'LWML Quilters') or cash to Eunice Timm, Donna Flippin, Jo Parham, or Lorilynn Baier.

JANUARY PLANNING MEETING FOR 2020...

THE LWML Ladies will be getting together in January to plan their 2021 year of events & activities, plus discuss organizational and officer changes. We will be looking for a new President, along with a couple other positions on the Board. If you are interested in joining this group or have any questions on the Board positions, please contact Eunice Timm (423-227-1127, new contact number). The exact date of the meeting has yet to be confirmed.



Pastor Adam Salinas preaching a sermon at Cross of Christ on Reformation Day 2020.



amazon smile
 "Amazon Smile - Amazon Gives"

Have you been ordering more items or gifts online due to the Pandemic? And now is the time to be thinking "Christmas and Holiday 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. **(The % given to charity goes up around the months of November and December.)** Cross of Christ is currently receiving a check once a quarter.

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!!



Thanks to Tony Pessini and Joey Duncan, for repairing our termite damaged mailbox. After cementing it in, this one can withstand anything! (Just don't back into it... your car would possibly lose the battle!)



Special thanks to Joey Duncan and Doug Guffey for installing a new dishwasher in the kitchen of the Fellowship Hall. We will be extremely grateful to have one that is working, when we finally are able to get back together for fellowship events. (Isn't it nice to see the inside of the building again!)



**BCA's Top Sellers in
Annual PTL Fall Cookie Dough Fundraiser!**



Congratulations to the top "Super Sellers" from BCA's recent PTL Cookie Dough/Catalog Fundraiser! We also congratulate Mrs. Brittany Webb's second grade for being the top selling class, with combined sales totaling \$4,558. Overall, families helped the school raised \$11,500 in profit, thanks to their selling efforts! Each sale brought us closer to reaching our goal of building the new Outdoor Classroom! Ground has already been broken for the new area, and we can't wait for students to be able to use it in the coming months!



BCA Dates to Remember
Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 23-27, 2020
(Infants - PK4 open Monday and Tuesday;
K - 8th closed full week)

THANK YOU!!

We also want to thank our generous donors, as we can now say that Phase 2 of our ongoing **Roof Project** is complete! In 2018, we began replacing sections of our expansive roof, and this phase is now officially complete. Additionally, we have an updated HVAC unit for the school's kitchen freezer and walk-in refrigerator!





(Found this cute cartoon from church clips, enjoy!)

Not only are we the sheep of the Lord's flock, but Cross of Christ has our own flock... of turkeys, wandering our grounds. They were eating the nuts that had fallen and then headed to the back lot and up the hill into our wooded area.



Just showing off a little bit!!



Getting a little too close to Hixson Pike!



Are you sure this is the correct door?



LET'S EAT!!!



Scenes from... **THE "23rd ANNUAL"
ED & JULIA EDMUNDSON
CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE.**
(Held the weekend of **October 24 & 25.**)
**Thank you to a member who donated a
\$250.00 Thrivent card to this event.**



The Chickens
Have Arrived!!



Dan Rice and Arlene Vickers unloading the boxes of chickens & getting them ready to be cut up.



Our cut up and prep team... Barbara Wyatt, Donna Flippin, Pastor, Marc Flippin, Sandra Rice, and Joan Bartlett.



Did you know if you pour boiling water on wasp nests, it will kill them? The Boy Scouts couldn't move the wood up to the grilling area as usual, due to three (3) nests of wasps nestled in the seasoned firewood. Thank you to Dave Hook for the wonderful suggestion!



The young, masked man, who drove up from Atlanta to help his dad with this annual event.



LWML MITE BOXES

Due to a technical problem with the LWML website, the LWML Mite Challenge Calendar for November 2020 could not be copied to our newsletter. Please see the separate attachment for your own LWML Mite Calendar to print out.



Pastor has asked that a special attachment be added to the November newsletter. It is entitled "Discerning the Truth" by Burk Parsons.



GIVING THANKS and LIVING THANKS

There is also a newsletter attachment that talks about Actively Celebrating Thanksgiving Day...

Put God First

Treasure Others

Care For The Earth

The sheet also gives us ideas of things you could do during your Thanksgiving meal and for the weekend...

Acts of Thanksgiving

Help From Scripture On LIVING Thanks

By Mark Zimmermann
2020 by Creative Communications for the Parish

How Can I Talk to Others About Jesus?

Research shows that most Christians have few or no spiritual conversations with the people around them in an average year, often because they are nervous or wonder what to say. It doesn't have to be this way.

Other Christians report having spiritual conversations as a source of joy and even laughter with the people they talk with! If you'd like to learn more about how it can be this way for you, go to <https://www.lhm.org/curve/> You will find all the resources you need, in a learning style that fits your lifestyle; including online courses, books, or webinar style presentations.

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.



A Family Blessing

Lord of all,

Bless our families.

Be they formed by blood
or by circumstance,
make them holy.

May we find you

in our relationships.

In our marriages, in our families,
in our households,
in our communities,
in our global humanity.

May we look across

all that divides us

and see family,
and embrace as a family does.
And love as a family ought to.

For where two or three gather
in Your name,
There are you.

Amen.

2017 crs.org



Do you know of someone in need of a Thanksgiving basket? Please contact Pastor or the church office to share that info. for our list. **Please bring any or all of the following items to church by 5pm, Friday, November 20th.** You can place basket items in the Library, in the marked areas, starting Friday, November 6th. Items not received by 5pm on the 20th will need to be purchased prior to packing baskets. **You can also give donations for the Thanksgiving baskets, marking this in the 'memo area' of your check or on the envelope.** *More information regarding assembly and distribution of the food baskets to be announced in the November newsletter.*

NON- PERISHABLE

FOOD ITEMS

- 2 cans green beans
- 2 cans corn
- 2 cans sweet potatoes
- 1 can cranberry sauce
- 5 lb. bag potatoes
- 1 40 oz. jar peanut butter
- 1 12 oz. jar grape jelly
- 2 boxes jello (both same flavor)
- 1 can seasoned pumpkin pie mix
- 1 cake mix
- 1 can ready-to-spread frosting
- 1 bottle vegetable oil

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- 2 bath-size bars soap
- 1 bottle dish detergent
- 1 box laundry powder
- 1 4-pack toilet paper
- 1 box cornbread mix

(Additional perishable basket items will be purchased the weekend of Nov. 21st and 22nd, with a Thrivent card generously donated to CoC.)

Viele Hände machen bald ein Ende.

(Many hands make light work.)

Thank you to one of our members for donating one of their Thrivent \$250.00 cards to this community project. That money will buy the turkeys and perishables that complete each Thanksgiving basket.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the pandemic, there are changes in our usual plans for dropping off your donations, putting together the baskets, and delivering the Thanksgiving baskets this year.

+ When dropping off your donations... Please put your donations on the correct table in the Library, which are all labeled accordingly. This will help avoid extra handling of donations by someone else.

+ Social Ministry members and a small group of members will be putting together the baskets on November 22nd, rather than a group of volunteers.

+ We are still needing drivers to deliver the baskets. The family will be called when you will arrive at their location. The baskets will be dropped off on their doorstep or front porch. You will not go into any residence or get close to anyone receiving a basket. We will ask you to be sure they open the door and get the items.

+ We would ask that basket deliveries be made by family groupings, instead of a bunch of people riding together. We will try to plan for drop-off's in the same, general location, if at all possible.

The Doeblner Family

Dear Friends,

Where has the time gone? It seems like it wasn't that long ago that we left Chattanooga in a big yellow truck to begin a new life in St. Louis. Your prayers and support given on our behalf have both encouraged our family and eased the burden of this transition.

To catch you up to speed, Matt's classes at the Seminary began at the end of August. He's taking 12 hours in addition to a few other noncredit classes like Greek Lab, Formation Groups, and American Sign Language (which he says is more challenging than Greek). His classes are meeting in person, but social distancing and masks are mandatory. The circumstances have made it difficult for the students to get to know one another, but Matt has a group of 3-4 other guys that he meets with every week for prayer and encouragement, and that has helped.

Jack and Chloe both began 8th grade this year. Due to COVID, their entire 1st Quarter has been online. However, they have wonderful teachers who have all worked very hard to make their learning as enriching and engaging as possible. Lord willing, their school will return to in-person instruction next month.

We were blessed to find a church community very quickly upon arriving in St. Louis. Our family is attending Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Crestwood, MO (about 15 minutes from our home). Matt, who used to teach film and video media, has been able to assist the church with recording the weekly services for those who are still being kept away by COVID. The Seminary has approved for Prince of Peace to be Matt's field work congregation, which means our family will be there until he graduates.

Both Jack and Natalie's birthdays are this weekend, so we've set aside some time to celebrate together as a family. We've even found a fall festival to attend in the little German town of Hermann, MO—it makes us miss Oktoberfest at Cross of Christ (our home congregation in Chattanooga).

May God's grace, mercy and peace guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

Until next time, friends!

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Matt

My favorite class reading so far has been Richard Neuhaus' *Freedom for Ministry*. In a chapter on preaching, he says that the proclamation of the Word must be like a "fire under control." I love that image!

Natalie

I have taken up sewing and quilting in my free time. In addition to working, I am assisting the kids with online schooling.

Jack

I am taking Spanish and video production this semester!

Chloe

I am taking visual art and German this semester!





NOVEMBER

2020

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ALL SAINTS DAY 9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study 2 pm Hand Bell Choir <i>(note time change)</i> 4 pm Adult Instruction Class	6:30 pm Scouts	ELECTION DAY 9:30 am Quilters	<u>11 am Deadline</u> for Wednesday Afternoon Private Communion Afternoon Private Holy Communion 'NO' Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	<u>4 pm Deadline</u> for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	9 am LWML CARE-VAN Pickup 5 pm Boy Scouts Overnight Camping	AM Boy Scouts Depart 1-5 pm Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13	Saturday 14
9 am Worship, with Adult Confirmation 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Elders' Mtg.	9:30 am Quilters	<u>11 am Deadline</u> for Wednesday Afternoon Private Communion Afternoon Private Holy Communion <i>Jr. Confirmation Class (see Friday)</i>	<u>4 pm Deadline</u> for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	1-5 pm Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
Sunday 15	Monday 16	Tuesday 17	Wednesday 18	Thursday 19	Friday 20	Saturday 21
9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts	9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Board of Directors Mtg. (via ZOOM)	<u>11 am Deadline</u> for Wednesday Afternoon Private Communion Afternoon Private Holy Communion 4 pm Virtual Junior Confirmation Class	<u>4 pm Deadline</u> for Saturday Private Communion and Weekend Worship Services 6:30 pm Crossways 8 pm Virtual Bibles & Brews	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES & PICTURES DUE FOR DECEMBER	1-5 pm Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28
9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts	9:30 am Quilters 4 pm Deadline for Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service -and- Saturday Private Communion -and- Weekend Worship Services	'NO' Afternoon Private Communion 'NO' Virtual Junior Confirmation Class 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED 'NO' Crossways 'NO' Virtual Bibles & Brews	OFFICE CLOSED	1-5 pm Private Holy Communion 6 pm Worship
Sunday 29	Monday 30	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (423-877-7447)				
ADVENT 1 9 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Women's Virtual Bible Study 4 pm Adult Instruction Class 7 pm Hand Bell Choir	6:30 pm Scouts	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <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. Thank you for making yours!</p> </div>				